

AIRGUN WORLD

August 1986, £1.00

**Britain's
No.1 Airgun
Magazine**

GAME FAIR SPECIAL

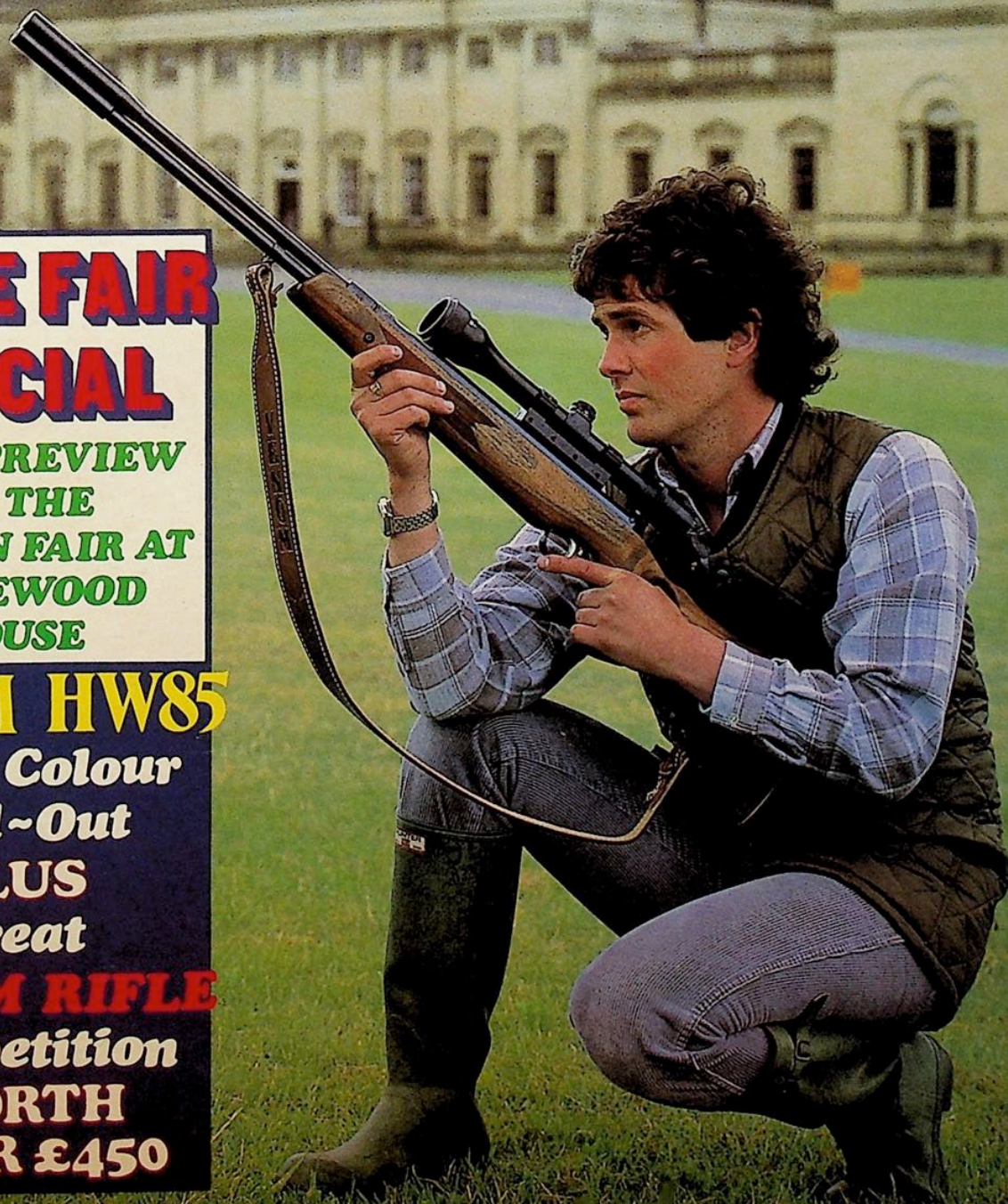
**FULL PREVIEW
OF THE
AIRGUN FAIR AT
HAREWOOD
HOUSE**

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The Editor says ...



WHATEVER the merits of its specific arguments there is no doubt that Tom Downes' article *Friend Or Foe* in our May issue created a tremendous amount of interest among *Airgun World's* readers.

Most of the sackfuls of correspondence we have received has been about the merits of hunting live quarry with an airgun.

Personally I believe that the whole question of whether to hunt with an airgun is a matter for each individual. I can understand the feelings of those who object to the killing of animals — although I do not agree with them — but I do not see any reason for their views to be inflicted upon those who do not share them.

If you accept that we have a right to hunt other animals, I do not think there is any doubt that an air rifle is a perfectly acceptable weapon for the sport in the right hands.

As you may already have noticed, this is our Game Fair issue. This year's Fair is certain to be the biggest and best ever as far as air weapons are concerned — and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on our stand at Harewood House on July 31st-August 2nd. Turn to page 25 for our full preview of the Airgun Fair at the Game Fair.

BSA Are Back!

BSA GUNS have a future. That is the message I am happy to be able to bring you following an announcement from the company just as we went to press.

The assets of BSA Guns have been bought by a British subsidiary of a major international group called Epic Fibres Ltd, and the main intention of the new owners is to concentrate on the manufacture and sale of BSA rifles and pistols. The company's new chairman is Mr R. J. Hodge, and the general manager is Ken White — a long-term employee of BSA Guns.

The new company has injected a lot of cash, and trading began again on June 30th.

Obviously pleased with the resolution of a long running crisis, Ken White was pleased to be able to say that the new formation means that BSA will now have 100 per cent more invol...

...th airguns than before. I am obviously pleased that e — and I hope that *Airgun* part in restoring the company ... are all *Airgun World* — Welcome

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This year's Game Fair at Harewood House is a must for all airgunners.

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HW35, HW35E, HW80	Zodiac 322 and old	Foresight blade screw	R right ass. Major	Cocking lever	Trig. axis screw only	Manspring	ASI centre pistol
35 Standard stock	Tornado underlever	Foresight protector	R right leaf only Major	Sideplate	Trig. axis screw only	C	BSF55 & 554
35 Export Stock 1h	(Simple flat rearsight)	Mk. I rearsight ass. pillar	Elev. scr. pincer & spring	Pair sideplate screws	Trig. guard screw	B	BSF 60
35 Export Stock 1h	LG15V Super Tornado	Mk. II rearsight ass. (fold-	Rightsight Cadet	Piston head unit	Fore-end stock screws	C	Hannell 303
80 stock 1h		type)	F sight cadet major	Manspring	Barrel latch & spring	G	Hannell 313
80 stock 1h		Foresight Cadet	F sight cadet major	Manspring guide	Barrel axis screw only	B	IGI Pistol
80 stock 1h		Loading tap 22	Heavy duty mainspring	Trig. housing	Breach seal	B	Jackal AR7
Pair sling swivels	Pr. front stock screws	Load tap index plate	Fore-end screws	Trig. guard	Barrel axis pin	B	Jackal Parabellum
D Luxe det. swivels	Trig. guard	Load tap ball spring	Cock washers	Trig. spring	Block	B	Milbro G74
Leather carry sling	Rear guard screw	Sear Mk. I & II	PRE-WAR STANDARD	Trig. spring	Block	B	Milbro G75 & 76
D.L. leather sling	Outer trig. adj. screw	Sear Mk. III & IV	Guard screw	Trig. spring	Block	B	Milbro G77
Pr front stock screws	Inner trig. adj. screw	Trig. sear Mk. I & II	Trig. sear Mk. I & II	Trig. spring	Block	B	Milbro G78 & 79
Pr front stock (35)	Trig. guard	Air Mk. I Trigger pawl	Trig. sear Mk. I & II	Trig. spring	Block	B	Milbro G80
Pr front stock (80)	Trig. guard	Sear connect Mk. II III	Sear — post 19 19	Trig. spring	Block	B	Sterling
Cylinder unit only	Trig. guard	Cock lever thumb piece	Trig. spring	Trig. spring	Block	B	SIG Hammerli
Cylinder end block	Trig. guard	Thumb piece spring	Piston washer unit	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Trig. guard	Trig. guard	Fr. Stock nut bolt Mk. I	Load tap index plate	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Front guard screw	Trig. guard	Fr. Stock nut bolt Mk. II	Cocking link axis	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Rear guard screw	Trig. guard	Front support Mk. I & II	Cocking lever catch block	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Trig. assembly	Trig. guard	Piston complete Mk. II	Axis screw pre-1930	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Tr. ass. retaining pins	Trig. guard	Nylon r/pmint piston head	Axis screw pre-1930	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Trigger	Trig. guard	With "O" ring for Mk. I &	Axis screw pre-1930	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Tr. pressure screw	Trig. guard	Alloy grip cap	Thumbcatch spring	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Pr. screw lock nut	Trig. guard	LATER MERCURYS	Cock. lever catch block	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Tr. pressure spring	Trig. guard	& AIRPORTERS	Rightsight	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Safety catch & spr	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
35E plastic grip cap	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Dropper rearsight	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Rubber eyecup	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Rightsight as fitted	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Rightsight elev. wheel	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Rightsight ret. screw	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Windage adj. screw	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Foresight as fitted	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
F sight & Eagle eye	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Foresight ret. screw	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Any f sight element	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
35 Std. barrel only	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
35E barrel only	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
80 barrel only	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Barrel latch & spring	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Cocking link assembly	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Cocking link pin	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
80 Piston slide	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
80 Barrel latch & pin	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Breach seal	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Barrel axis bolt ass	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Pair axis bolt shims	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
35 80 Piston ass	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
77 Piston ass	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Piston ass. complete	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Piston head unit	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Mainspring	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Mainspring guide	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Pr. 1" tube scope mnts	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
Pr. recoil arrest blocks	Trig. guard	Mercury stock	Rightsight blade only	Trig. spring	Block	B	
HW70 PISTOL							
Piston assembly							
Piston washer & rivet							
Mainspring							
End cap							
Barrel axis shims							
Breach seal							
4 stock ret. screws							
Rightsight assembly							
FEINWERKBAU							
Sport							
Luxury stock 1h							
Luxury stock 1h							
Standard stock							
Bolt plate and screws							
Plastic grip cap							
Pr. front stock screws							
Pr. front stock (35)							
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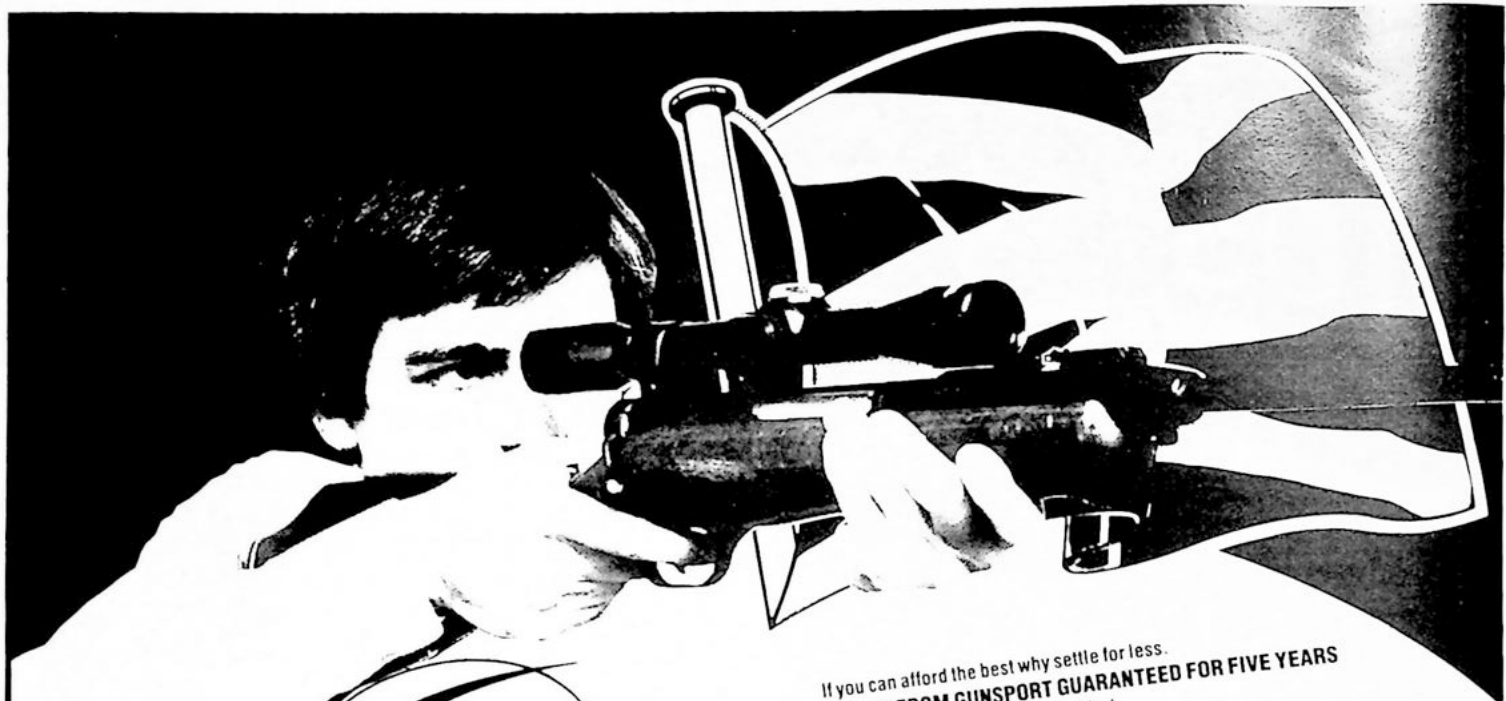
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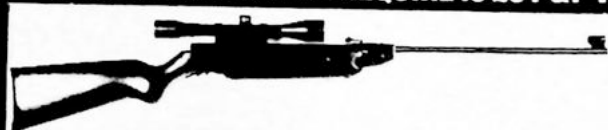
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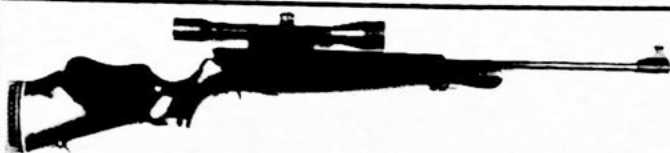
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	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£169 or	£3.83 wk	£2.20 wk
£179 or	£4.05 wk	£2.33 wk



AIR ARMS CAMARGUE
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£219 or	£4.96 wk	£2.86 wk
£229 or	£5.19 wk	£2.99 wk



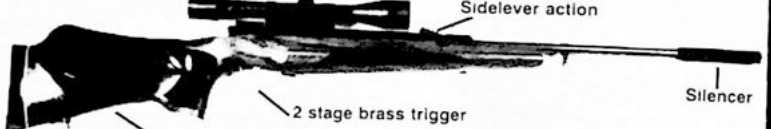
The exciting **NEW MODEL** from AIR ARMS

KHAMSIN



AIR ARMS MISTRAL A.L. 40 shot semi-auto
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£185 or	£4.19 wk	£2.41 wk
£195 or	£4.42 wk	£2.54 wk



KHAMSIN model
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1 piece mount • silencer
4x40 scope • 1 piece mount • silencer

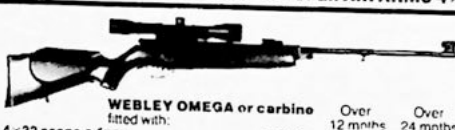
	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£279 or	£6.32 wk	£3.64 wk
£289 or	£6.55 wk	£3.77 wk

All these SUPER COMBINATIONS are fitted with either a **TASCO • ASI • KASSNAR 4x32** or an **AIR ARMS 4x40** and 1-piece mount ideal for Hunting & Field Target



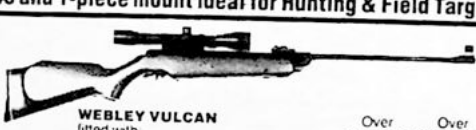
FEINWERKBAU SPORT MKII
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£199 or	£4.51 wk	£2.60 wk
£209 or	£4.73 wk	£2.73 wk



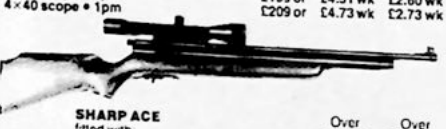
WEBLEY OMEGA or carbino
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£179 or	£4.05 wk	£2.33 wk
£189 or	£4.28 wk	£2.47 wk



WEBLEY VULCAN
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£139 or	£3.15 wk	£1.81 wk
£149 or	£3.37 wk	£1.94 wk



SHARP ACE
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£195 or	£4.42 wk	£2.54 wk
£205 or	£4.64 wk	£2.67 wk



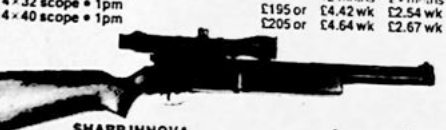
WEBLEY TRACKER
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£159 or	£3.60 wk	£2.07 wk
£169 or	£3.83 wk	£2.20 wk



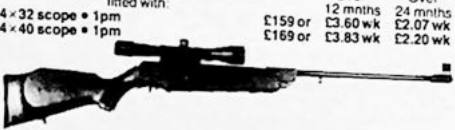
ASI MAGNUM
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£119 or	£2.69 wk	£1.55 wk
£129 or	£2.92 wk	£1.68 wk



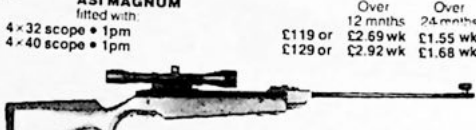
SHARP INNOVA
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£139 or	£3.15 wk	£1.81 wk
£149 or	£3.37 wk	£1.94 wk



WEBLEY VULCAN deluxe
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£163 or	£3.69 wk	£2.13 wk
£173 or	£3.92 wk	£2.26 wk

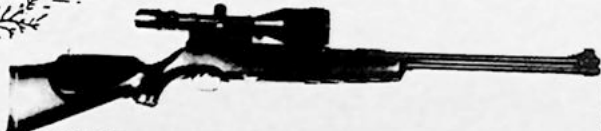


ORIGINAL MOD 45
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£145 or	£3.28 wk	£1.89 wk
£155 or	£3.51 wk	£2.02 wk

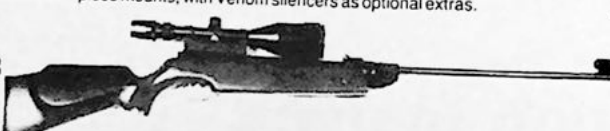
HUNTING OUTFITS

These superb 'HUNTING OUTFITS' are highly recommended by us for the serious hunter. Each outfit is available with a choice of 'High light intensity scopes' from Tasco • ASI or Kassnar. They are all fitted with 1-piece mounts, with Venom silencers as optional extras.



WEIHRACH 77 or 77K
fitted with:
ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day & Night • 1pm
Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
Venom Silencer

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£235 or	£5.32 wk	£3.07 wk
£249 or	£5.64 wk	£3.25 wk
£259 or	£5.87 wk	£3.38 wk
£33 or	£.74 wk	£.43 wk



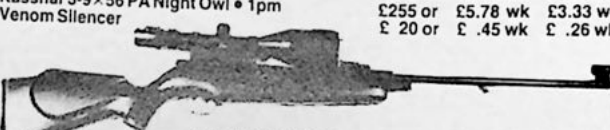
WEIHRACH 80 or 85
fitted with:
ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day/Night • 1pm
Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
Venom Silencer

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£229 or	£5.19 wk	£2.99 wk
£245 or	£5.55 wk	£3.20 wk
£255 or	£5.78 wk	£3.33 wk
£20 or	£.45 wk	£.26 wk



AIR ARMS KHAMSIN
fitted with:
ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day/Night • 1pm
Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
Silencer included

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£335 or	£7.59 wk	£4.37 wk
£349 or	£7.91 wk	£4.56 wk
£359 or	£8.14 wk	£4.69 wk



WEBLEY OMEGA
fitted with:
ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day/Night • 1pm
Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
Venom Silencer

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£245 or	£5.55 wk	£3.20 wk
£259 or	£5.87 wk	£3.38 wk
£269 or	£6.10 wk	£3.51 wk
£20 or	£.45 wk	£.26 wk



Zephyr 77

BY **THEOBEN**

ZEPHYR 77 FEATURES INCLUDE:

1. P.T.F.E. coated 'TITAN' Mainspring
2. Injection moulded 'ZEPHYR' piston crown – as in the Theoben Sirocco – with scraper ring to end lubrication drift to compression chamber. P.T.F.E. particles added to piston crown in moulding process. Channelled crown face to port recess.
3. Oval-ground piston, P.T.F.E. coated (low drag).
4. Top quality French walnut stock with adjustable butt pad.
5. Theoben designed and built barrel weight/silencer/cocking lever retaining latch.
6. Weihrauch 'REKORD' trigger.

MAY 1986
AIRGUN WORLD
'GUNTEST' BY
WALLY POPE (THE
ZEPHYR 77 – AWARDED 10
OUT OF 10 IN EVERY
CATEGORY)

"The French walnut stock is really something else."

"One of the most attractive stocks I can recall seeing". "Power right on the legal limit". "Moving the pellet catcher back to 40 yards resulted in an average group size of 5/8". I regard this level of accuracy as exemplary". "How brilliant the Zephyr concept is".

"The Zephyr 77 deserves 10 out of 10 for everything, thinking we are facing the the ultimate in air rifle perfection".

JUNE 1986 AIRGUN WORLD 'COUNTRY GUN' BY ARTHUR SHEPHERD

"An exceptional air rifle. It seems that much of the cost has been spent where it matters – on improving the operating efficiency". "The rifle has done nothing but draw gasps of admiration from all who have seen it".

"With it I shot groups better than any I've managed before".

THE ULTIMATE STATE OF THE ART AIR WEAPON IS AVAILABLE NOW:

ZEPHYR 77 FIELD TARGET with top quality French walnut stock	£325.00
ZEPHYR 77 HUNTER with lightweight Tyrol custom stock	£285.00
WEIHRAUCH HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (incl. silencer)	£192.50
WEIHRAUCH HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (no silencer)	£155.00

GREAT NEWS—NOW EXISTING HW77 OWNERS CAN HAVE ZEPHYR PERFORMANCE. SEND OR BRING YOUR HW77 FOR FULL ZEPHYR INTERNAL CONVERSION—£50.00 PLUS £2.50 P&P. FOR LIMITED PERIOD ONLY. WHILE YOU WAIT SERVICE BY APPOINTMENT.

RING JOHN STEVENS NOW WITH YOUR QUESTIONS ON

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Rayleigh
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Open 10am-6pm
Closed Wed & Sun

(A129 Wickford to Rayleigh Rd. 1/2 mile before Rayleigh Station)

AIRGUN CENTRE TUNING — Remember we were the first company to offer tuned weapons — our experience is unparalleled. Send your weapon for full Airgun Centre tune. We still only charge £20 and that includes a replacement top quality mainspring. Don't forget to add £2.50 for return postage & packing.

TEST CERTIFICATES — Supplied with all tuned weapons, giving comprehensive performance details.

FREE OVERHAULS — Once we have tuned your weapon, we will overhaul it **FREE OF CHARGE FOR LIFE**.

LIFETIME GUARANTEE — We only stock top quality products in which we have full confidence. Enough to give a **LIFETIME GUARANTEE!**

FULLY AIRGUN CENTRE TUNED RIFLES

	Cash Price	Deposit	12 months at
Zephyr 77 Field Target with top quality French walnut stock	£325.00	£33.00	£28.92
Zephyr 77 Hunter with lightweight Tyrol custom stock	£285.00	£29.00	£25.35
Weihrauch HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (incl. silencer)	£192.50	£19.50	£17.13
Weihrauch HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (no silencer)	£155.00	£16.00	£13.76
Weihrauch HW80 Tyrol Custom (80K carbine version same price)	£198.00	£20.00	£17.62
Weihrauch HW77 (and HW77K carbine)	£120.00	£12.00	£10.85
Weihrauch HW80 (and HW80K carbine)	£109.00	£11.00	£9.96
Weihrauch HW35 Export	£115.00	£12.00	£10.41
Weihrauch HW35 (also HW35K carbine)	£85.00	£9.00	£8.01
Theoben Sirocco Deluxe (silencer fitted)	£270.00	£27.00	£24.06
Theoben Sirocco Standard (silencer fitted)	£230.00	£23.00	£20.50
Feinwerkbau Sport Tyrol Custom	£224.00	£23.00	£19.90
Feinwerkbau Sport Mk.II	£135.00	£14.00	£11.98
Original 50 TO1	£125.00	£13.00	£11.21
Original 45	£90.00	£9.00	£8.46
Webley Omega (and carbine version)	£125.00	£13.00	£11.21
Webley Vulcan Deluxe (and carbine version)	£105.00	£11.00	£9.61
Webley Vulcan Mk.II (and carbine version)	£85.00	£9.00	£8.01
Webley Beeman C1 carbine	£75.00		
Webley Victor	£65.00		
Webley Air Wolf	£56.00		
BSA Stutzen	£139.00	£14.00	£12.38
BSA Airsporter S (and carbine version)	£129.00	£13.00	£11.56
BSA Mercury Challenger	£99.00	£10.00	£9.17

FULLY AIRGUN CENTRE TUNED PISTOLS

	Cash Price	Deposit	12 months at
Weihrauch HW45	£115.00	£12.00	£10.41
Webley Hurricane	£66.00		
Webley Tempest	£56.00		
BSA Scorpion	£64.00		

FOR UNTUNED WEAPONS DEDUCT £10.00

KASSNAR 'SCOPES'

Adjustable Parallax with External Windage and Elevation Adjustment

3-9x56 wide angle (WAPA)	£129.00
6-18x40 wide angle (WAPA)	£117.00
3-9x40 wide angle (WAPA)	£93.00
2-7x32 wide angle (WAPA)	£87.00
4x40 wide angle (WAPA)	£81.00
4x32 wide angle (WAPA)	£68.00

ZOOM (VARIABLE POWER)

3-9x40 wide angle (WA)	£71.00
2-7x32 wide angle (WA)	£70.00
1.75-5x40	£66.00
1.54-4x20	£42.00

FIXED POWER

8x56	£88.00
6x40	£53.00
4x40 wide angle (WA)	£57.00
2.75x40	£52.00
4x32 wide angle (WA)	£50.00
4x32	£43.00
2.5x32	£46.00
4x32 Vistascope	£31.00
4x20 with mounts	£12.00

SPORTSMATCH MOUNTS

ONE PIECE

OP10 FWB/ORIG/WEBLEY/ANSCHUTZ	£17.25
OP12 BSA	£19.00
OP15 WEIHRACH	£19.00
OP14 SHARP	£19.00

TWO PIECE

TO1 FWB/ORIG/WEBLEY/ANSCHUTZ	£6.05
TO3 as above extra tough fittings	£7.75
TO2 WEIHRACH, with arrester stud	£6.20
TO4 as above, extra tough fittings	£8.45

SILENCERS

AIR LOGIC — State which rifle to fit	£19.95
ZEPHYR — For HW77 Blue steel includes underlever retaining catch. The best on the market	£37.50
Top quality leather slings	£8.45
Quickly detachable sling swivels	£8.95
Standard sling swivels	£5.00
De luxe vinyl foam-lined (egg-box) case	£22.50
"Weihrauch" fleece-lined case	£21.50
Standard fleece-lined case	£17.50

BUYING ON CREDIT IS EASY . . .

Just add together the cost of all the items you want. Complete the order form below and send it with your 10% deposit + £2.50 p&p and we do the rest. If our order form is not big enough simply write a letter or telephone.

CREDIT EXAMPLE

Weihrauch HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (no silencer) at £155.00 plus Sportsmatch OP10 one piece mount £17.25 plus Kassnar 3-9x40 w.a. £71.00 plus Weihrauch case £21.50 — **TOTAL CASH PRICE £264.75.**

Or deposit £26.00 followed by 12 monthly payments of £23.57. Amount of interest £44.84 at APR 38.6% (typical). Licensed Credit Brokers.

ORDER FORM

Mail Order and Credit Facilities

Access and Barclaycard welcome, telephone your order for immediate despatch. If you order by post use this slip and make cheques or postal orders payable to The Airgun Centre. Cash with order in registered envelope please. Add £2.50 post, packing and insurance for rifles and combinations, £1.50 for 'scopes, pistols etc.

If you require credit, (available only on purchases totalling £85 and over) fill in the form and return it with your deposit of 10%.

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12 ☐ 24 ☐ months. I am over 18 years yes ☐ no ☐

Please send

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+ p&p £ Total amount enclosed £

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OPTIMA TELESCOPIC SIGHTS

GENUINE FULL WATERPROOF
SPECIFICATION

Fitted with **Rangemaster™**

The instant UP-DOWN Zero Shift!
You aim dead-on-centre for every shot

Specifications Include: Clarity right up to the edge. Permanently centred sight element irrespective of adjustment. Non-misting hydrogen filled tube, with matt black scratch resistant finish. Rubber-tipped eyecap now fitted to all models.



Imported direct from the manufacturers —
Sold direct to you the customer. This means that
we can offer High Quality Sights at prices you
would expect to pay £20-£50 more.

Full instruction booklet supplied with every sight.



OPTIMA 4x32W

£44

Wide Angled Panoramic View with No. 15 duel-x reticle. Parallaxed for Air Rifle at 30 yards or Fire Arms at infinity. Please state which type with order.



OPTIMA 4x40W

£49

Wide Angled Panoramic View with No. 15 duel-x reticle. Parallaxed for Air Rifle at 30 yards or Fire Arms at infinity. Please state which type with order.



OPTIMA 3-9x40W

£65

Wide Angled Panoramic View with No. 15 duel-x reticle. Parallaxed for Air Rifle at 30 yards or Fire Arms at infinity. Please state which type with order. Fully variable between 3+9 magnification

THIS IS THE FABULOUS
Moonlighter™

£84

the ideal scope for night-and-day

If you enjoy shooting at dusk, by moonlight or just before the sun comes up when you have to make the most of what light there is, this is the scope for you. The massive 45mm objective lens gathers and captures the light. It is 26.5% bigger than the 40mm objective lens. The special multi-coating of the lens minimises light reflection and maximises light passing through, funneling it into a standard field of view allowing the use of normal magnifications without excessive degrading of the image. Special satin-black anodised finish to eliminate give-away reflection. Equally suitable for day use, but full benefits are obviously only evident in poor light conditions.

AND THE NOWEQUALLY
RENOWNED SUPER Moonlighter™

As close as you can to a night-sight without a light intensification or infra-red device. If there is any light around, the massive 56mm lens will capture it. (It's over three times the area of a 32mm lens!) The superb optics with special lens multi-coating will concentrate it and funnel it into your vision, and there's enough light captured to spread up to the full x9 magnification, and still give you a pupil-full of image on maximum dilation on a moonlit night. Nobody other than Optima can bring you anything else approaching this combination of lens size and quality of optical resolution at anything approaching the price.



NEW

1.5-4x16

Introducing the OPTIMA Compact Gamekeepers Sight. This super design compact sight is now available from Optima. The internal specification includes a total of 9 glass lenses all multi-coated to maximise the light transmission. Variable magnification between 1.5 and 4. Duel-x reticle. Parallax adjustment — can be used on Air Rifles or Fire Arms. Complete ATG built-in mount will fit gun rails 6mm-15mm. Length: 5-8 inches. Wt: 8.2oz

£105

SPORTING AND TARGET RIFLES

WEIHRAUCH

HW35 Std. 177 or .22 + Handbook	£71.45
HW80. 177 or .22 R/H + Handbook	£97.50
HW80K carbine. 177 or .22 R/H.	£97.50
HW85	£97.50
HW80. 177 or .22 L/H + Handbook	£115.00
HW35 Exp. 177 or .22 R/H + Handbook + free issue	£104.00
HW77 underlever. 177 or .22	£104.00
HW77K carbine version. 177 or .22	£104.00
HW45 Airpistol. 177 or .22	£95.00

BSA

Meteor	£41.00
Super Met	£49.00
Mercury	£66.00
Airsporter	£89.00
Airsporter S	£115.00
Challenger	£82.00
Stutzen	£115.00

FEINWERKBAU Target

FWB 300S match Rifle — R/H Walnut Stock	£365.00
FWB 300SU Rifle — R/H Walnut Stock	£425.00
FWB 65 Pistol — R/H Walnut Grip	£299.00
FWB 65 Pistol — R/H Anatomical Grip	£315.00
FWB 80 Pistol — R/H Anatomical Grip	£350.00
FWB 90 Electronic Pistol	£399.00
NEW FWB 600	£475.00
FWB 300S Running Target 2 only (new)	£285.00
FWB 300S Running Target 1 only S/H (mint)	£200.00
L/H versions of any of the above target rifles and pistols.	

FREE OFFER

With any Weihrauch Sporting Rifle you will receive a FREE Handbook (except model HW77). 200 H&N and a sling — WORTH OVER £10.

SHARP PNEUMATICS

Sharp Ace	£125.00
Sharp Innova	£79.95

All guns are guaranteed brand new and fully complete with all standard equipment and factory fresh in manufacturers' boxes.

WEBLEY

Webley Vulcan De Luxe plus leather sling	£95.00
Webley Tracker plus leather sling	£95.00
Webley Omega	£115.00
Webley Omega carbine	£115.00
Webley Vulcan Tracker	£95.00

SAXBY PALMER

GALAXY AIR RIFLE inc. Pump and 10 metal cartridges	
Plus FREE Cartridge Belt	
Extra cartridges per 10 — PHONE FOR BEST PRICES	
ORION Six Shot recoilless air revolver inc Pump and 6 cartridges	P.O.A.
Extra cartridges per 6	P.O.A.
MODEL 54 — 5 shot recoilless air revolver inc Slim Jim Pump and 5 cartridges	P.O.A.
MODEL 52 — 5 shot recoilless air revolver inc. Slim Jim Pump and 5 cartridges	P.O.A.
LEE ENFIELD No. 4 bolt action rifle with pump and 10 cartridges £230.00. Extra cartridges £17.50 per 5.	

FEINWERKBAU Sport Mk. II

--	--

BARNETT CROSSBOWS

Panzer II Crossbow, 50lb, 75lb, 100lb, 125lb, 150lb	£86.50 Inc 2 Bolts
6 extra Bolts incl Quiver	£17.50
Wildcat II Crossbows 50lb, 75lb, 100lb, 125lb, 150lb	£86.50
6 extra Bolts incl Quiver	£17.50
Commando Crossbow 50lb, 75lb, 100lb, 125lb, 150lb	£149.95
5 extra Bolts	£8.90

SPECIAL OFFER

Optima 4x32W Scope and Mounts available to all customers purchasing any of the above crossbows	Special Price only £37.50
Sidewinder Compound Bow	£98.00
Arrows	£3.75 each
Quiver (Bow fitting)	£15.00



(Guaranteed to full specification. Backed by spares and expert service)
FWB 124 Sport De Luxe .177 R/H (metal triggers, etc) + Handbook £125.00
FWB 127 Sport De Luxe .22 R/H (metal triggers, etc) + Handbook £125.00
FWB 124 or 127 Sport de Luxe L/H add £15.00

AIR ARMS

Mistral .22/.177	£111.00
Mistral AL .22/.177	£125.00
Camargue .22/.177	£165.00
Camargue AL .22/.177	£185.00
Kasmin .22/.177	£210.00

QUALITY SLINGS

Plaited leather gun sling with adjustable buckles	£5.95
Leather grain PVC gun sling with adjustable buckles	£2.95

WHISPER two-piece SILENCERS to fit:

HW35, HW77 & HW80	£19.95
Sharp Ace	£19.95
Sharp Innova	£28.95
Webley (state model)	£19.95
BSA (state model)	£19.95

OPTIMA LEISURE PRODUCTS Ltd GILNOW MILL SPA ROAD BOLTON LANCs BL1 4LF Tel: (0204) 386899 Telex: 63114

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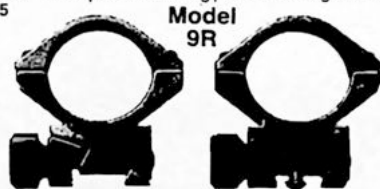
All the following air rifles come complete with Optima non creep mounts, GC5 gun cover — plated leather sling.
Please add £10 if Sportsmatch 1 Piece Mount preferred. *SEE OPTIMA PRICE PLEDGE

OUND-THE-CLOCK COMBINATIONS — BIG SAVINGS	OPTIMA 4x32W	OPTIMA 4x40W	OPTIMA 3.9x40W	OPTIMA MOONLIGHTER 3.9x45	OPTIMA SUPER MOONLIGHTER 3.9x56	OPTIMA GAMEKEEPER 1.5-4 COMPACT
WEIHRAUCH HW35 Std 22 or .177	£143.00	£148.00	£156.00	£173.00	£186.00	£186.00
WEIHRAUCH HW35 Export 22 or .177	£169.00	£173.00	£184.00	£199.00	£219.00	£219.00
WEIHRAUCH HW80 or HW80K 22 or .177	£169.00	£174.00	£183.00	£201.00	£218.00	£218.00
WEIHRAUCH HW85	£169.00	£174.00	£183.00	£201.00	£218.00	£218.00
WEIHRAUCH HW77 Underlever or 77K 22 or .177	£179.00	£183.00	£193.00	£210.00	£226.00	£226.00
FEINWERKBAU FWB 124/127	£175.00	£180.00	£191.00	£208.00	£221.00	£221.00
SHARP ACE, Pneumatic	£190.00	£194.00	£205.00	£223.00	£240.00	£240.00
SHARP Innova, Pneumatic	£145.00	£149.00	£159.00	£172.00	£189.00	£189.00
WEBLEY Vulcan Deluxe	£160.00	£165.00	£176.00	£192.00	£206.00	£206.00
WEBLEY Tracker	£160.00	£165.00	£176.00	£192.00	£206.00	£206.00
WEBLEY Omega	£179.00	£184.00	£195.00	£210.00	£225.00	£225.00
GALAXY inc. pump, 10 Metal Cartridges	£230.00	£235.00	£247.00	£262.00	£277.00	£277.00
BSA Meteor	£110.00	£114.00	£124.00	£139.00	£155.00	£155.00
BSA Super Meteor	£118.00	£122.00	£132.00	£147.00	£163.00	£163.00
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BSA Airsporter (for Airsporter S add £25.00)	£159.00	£168.00	£176.00	£193.00	£208.00	£208.00
BSA Challenger	£154.00	£158.00	£170.00	£186.00	£207.00	£207.00
BSA Stutzen	£187.00	£191.00	£203.00	£219.00	£235.00	£235.00
MISTRAL 22/.177	£177.00	£181.00	£192.00	£210.00	£227.00	£227.00
MISTRAL AL	£190.00	£194.00	£205.00	£223.00	£240.00	£240.00
CAMARGUE 22/.177	£230.00	£235.00	£247.00	£262.00	£277.00	£277.00
CAMARGUE AL	£248.00	£253.00	£265.00	£280.00	£295.00	£295.00
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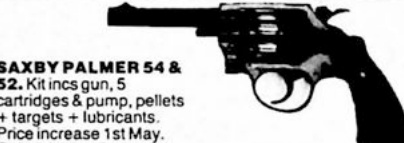


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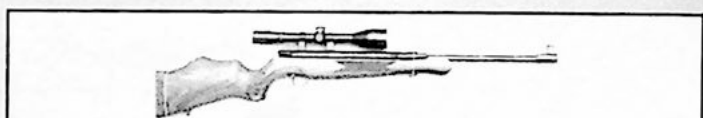


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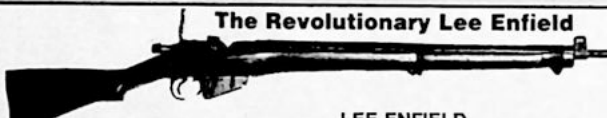
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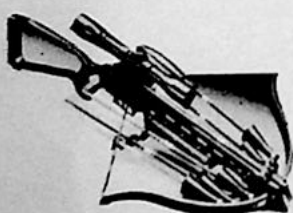
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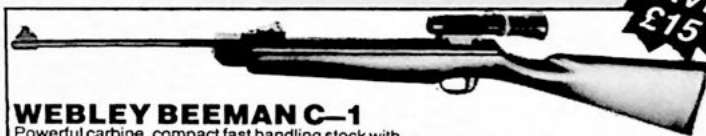
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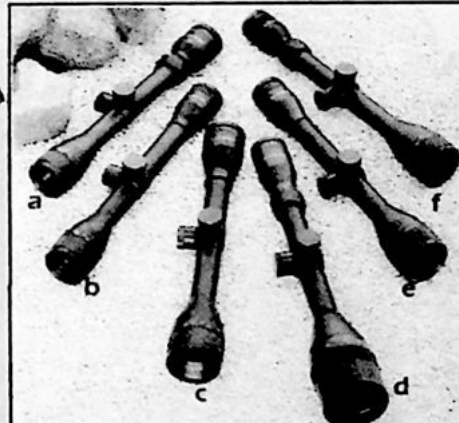
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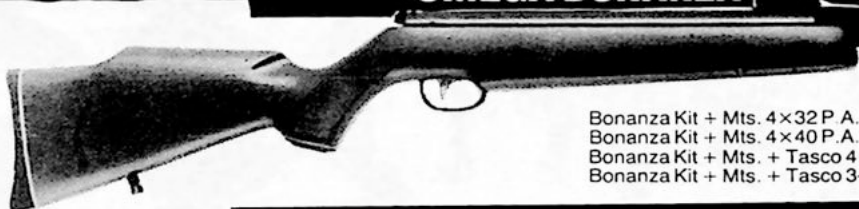
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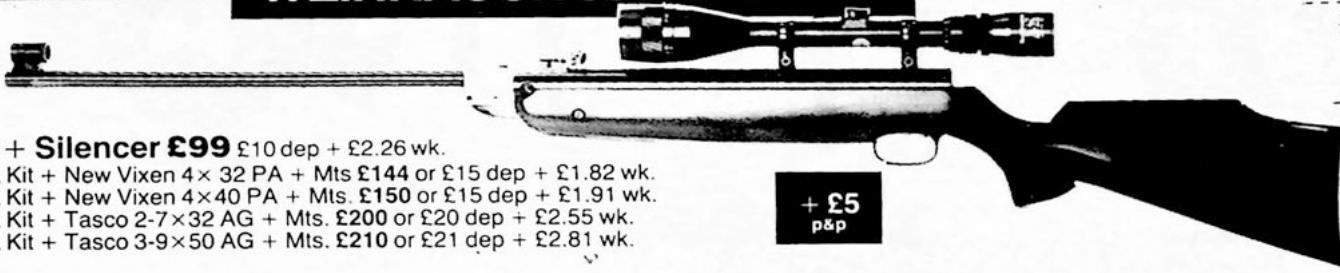
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HW80 + Silencer £99

£10 dep + £2.26 wk.

Bonanza Kit + New Vixen 4x32 PA + Mts £144 or £15 dep + £1.82 wk.
 Bonanza Kit + New Vixen 4x40 PA + Mts. £150 or £15 dep + £1.91 wk.
 Bonanza Kit + Tasco 2-7x32 AG + Mts. £200 or £20 dep + £2.55 wk.
 Bonanza Kit + Tasco 3-9x50 AG + Mts. £210 or £21 dep + £2.81 wk.

+ £5
p&p

PELLET PARADE

Post paid	.177	.22
Eley Wasp	£1.75	£2.55
Webley G.P.	£2.30	£2.90
Beeman Jet	£4.00	£4.00
Beeman Silver		
Bear	£2.90	£1.60
Baracuda/Silhouette	£2.70	£1.70
RWS Superdome	£2.10	£2.80
RWS H. Point	£2.10	£2.80
RWS Hobby	£1.50	£2.40
RWS Super Point	£2.10	£2.80
RWS Diabs	£2.10	£2.80
H&N Match	£2.35	£3.40

	.177	.22
Prometheus	£2.85	£2.85
Prom Truncated	£2.85	£2.85
Titan Black	£2.85	£2.85
H&N Pointed	£2.40	£1.60
	.20 Cal	
Beeman Silver Jet		£3.75
Hotshots		£1.60
Theoben Pellseat		£3.50
V.F.G. cleaning pellets		£2.00

+
Extensive range of targets

VULCAN VALUE

Now with improved barrel construction

VULCAN CARBINE

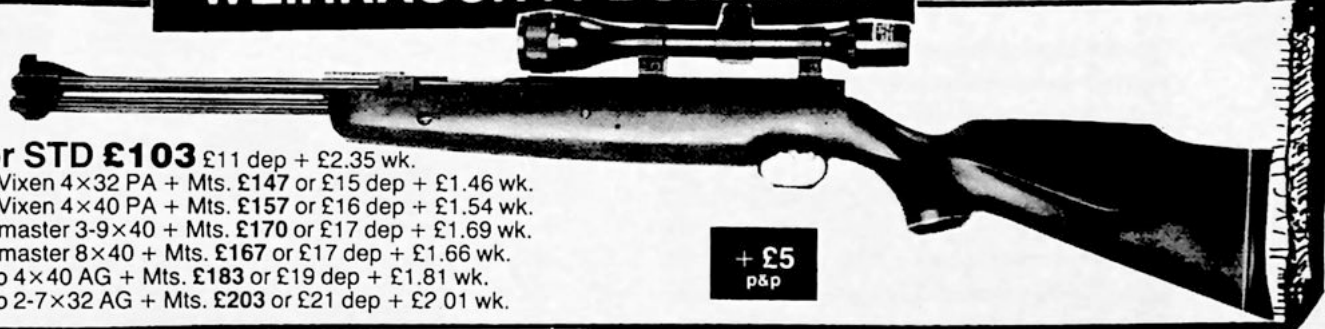
with Sling Swivels, Sling + Silencer

£88 or £9 dep + £2.07 wk

Carbine Kit + 4x32 PA Vixen + Mts. £127 or £13 + £2.84 wk
 Carbine Kit + 4x40 PA Vixen + Mts. £137 or £14 + £1.97 wk

+ £5 p&p

WEIHRAUCH 77 BONANZA



HW77K or STD £103

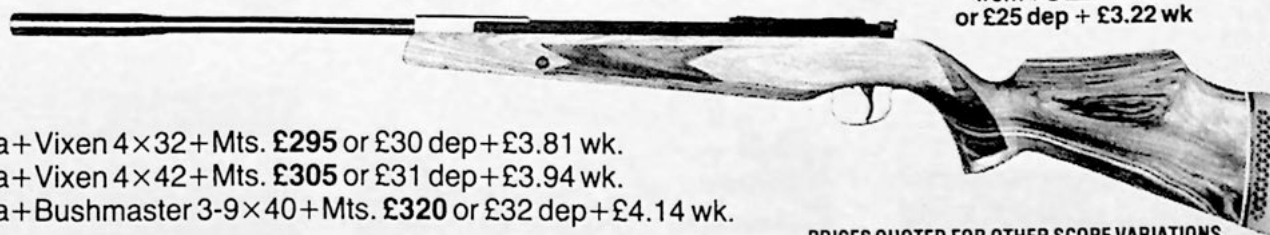
£11 dep + £2.35 wk.

HW77 + New Vixen 4x32 PA + Mts. £147 or £15 dep + £1.46 wk.
 HW77 + New Vixen 4x40 PA + Mts. £157 or £16 dep + £1.54 wk.
 HW77 + Bushmaster 3-9x40 + Mts. £170 or £17 dep + £1.69 wk.
 HW77 + Bushmaster 8x40 + Mts. £167 or £17 dep + £1.66 wk.
 HW77 + Tasco 4x40 AG + Mts. £183 or £19 dep + £1.81 wk.
 HW77 + Tasco 2-7x32 AG + Mts. £203 or £21 dep + £2.01 wk.

+ £5
p&p

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or £25 dep + £3.22 wk

Piranha + Vixen 4x32 + Mts. £295 or £30 dep + £3.81 wk.
 Piranha + Vixen 4x42 + Mts. £305 or £31 dep + £3.94 wk.
 Piranha + Bushmaster 3-9x40 + Mts. £320 or £32 dep + £4.14 wk.

PRICES QUOTED FOR OTHER SCOPE VARIATIONS

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CREDIT EXAMPLE: Piranha 38 £249 or £25 deposit

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inc. p&p

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The British Development made under licence to British Pat. No. 2023779

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THE ORION features a six inch barrel and target sights together with an excellent trigger. Fed on a diet of Eley Wasps in .177 cal, we've fired test groups of a ¼" centre-to-centre at 10 metres.

And with consistent power output of around 550 fps, the Orion is a classic weapon in a class of its own. It is worthy of a place in the collection of every serious shooter.

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£221.37
inc. VAT
Over 2500 Air
Revolvers
already sold



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Telephone us for
details of your
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Saxby and Palmer Air Revolvers do not require a UK firearms certificate. The prices quoted include the revolver, a full cylinder of Saxby Palmer air cartridges, a portable air charger and lubricant.

THE MODEL 52 AIR REVOLVER measures just 6½" nose to tail — which makes it the most compact air pistol on the market. This 5 shot air revolver is lightweight, well balanced and can be fired either single or double action. The grip is ambidextrous and suited to both male and female models.

Recommended pellet: H&N Match.

Performance figures quoted were verified before production of this advertisement. We can give no guarantee that each revolver sold will perform exactly as described.

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AIRGUN SCENE

Theoben's Pole Position

Theoben Engineering have been beaver away for some months now on a new rifle, and just like grand prix racing cars everything has been kept very securely under wraps. Now we can bring you the news that Theoben's new super sporter is ready. Called the Theoben Sirocco Grand Prix, the new rifle features a true thumbhole stock and an adjustable butt-plate to suit all shooting shapes and sizes.

The Theoben Sirocco Grand Prix combines all the superb features we've come to expect from the Cambridgeshire airgun wizards — including their special field target trigger for absolute control. The Grand Prix's stock features a specially contoured and styled trigger relief area to give you excellent feel and hold, with raised chequering on the fore-end and pistol grip.

The Grand Prix comes complete with a barrel weight or silencer and at £312 — excluding scope mounts — the Grand Prix looks set to become another winner from the Theoben stable.

It's not only new rifles from Theoben that are making the news this month, as Theoben have just announced that a new range of stylish gun bags and cases are now available. Made in Italy, the new bags and cases have been specially made for Theoben in a hard wearing dark or light brown material, complete with the Theoben Sirocco name woven into the fabric. The gun bags are lined and come with strong handles and carrying slings, while the rigid cases with brass fittings and catches represent the ultimate in protection.

Prices and further details on the Theoben Sirocco Grand Prix, and the range of bags and cases, can be obtained by contacting Theoben on 0480 61718. We'll have photographs of the exciting new Grand Prix rifle in our next issue.

Breaker, Breaker!

How many *Airgun World* readers have an old rifle or pistol in the cupboard in need of repair? The chances are quite a few, but the problem with some of the older weapons is availability of spares. Now Worcestershire Black Powder Supplies have come up with an idea that may help restore your old relics to their former glory — the first airgun 'breaker's yard'.

What Worcestershire Black Powder Supplies have done is to take in old and not so old air rifles and pistols, which are then stripped for their spares. Great savings can be made on factory prices and what's more, the service will be on computer so that telephone callers will know exactly what's available.

If you're looking for a spare part for your air rifle, give Worcestershire Black Powder Supplies a ring on 0299 402154.

Shhhh — From You Know Who!

Top airgun manufacturers Webley & Scott have just introduced a new high quality air rifle silencer. Called the Pro-System, the new silencer has been designed to fit over barrels from 14.3 mm — 16 mm and covers approximately 89 mm of the barrel end.

The silencer features a unique clamping system which locks it rigidly in position with no fear of slippage or creepage. We've tested the silencer on a variety of rifles and reckon that it's one of the best we've ever tried. Fitting is easy and the performance excellent, with the silencer's weight acting as a superb muzzle weight.

The Pro-System silencer is available to fit most popular air rifles, but be quick as demand is bound to exceed supply. Check with your local Webley dealer for further details.

Zephyr Winner

Our congratulations go to Mr W. Cook from Hatfield, Herts who is the lucky winner of our June Zephyr competition. He will receive a superb Zephyr 77 worth £325 and we reckon that he will be more than happy with its performance. The correct answers to the questions are: Essex; Wednesday and Sunday; Zelss and Kassnar; All tuning work; Rhino Hakko scopes and credit easy.

Name That Rifle

How would you like to win a £10 gift voucher from Venom Arms? That's the bait which Venom are offering through *Airgun World* to the reader who comes up with a suitable name for the new Venom HW85 featured in this month's colour pull-out. Game Fair visitors will have the chance to see the new rifle in the flesh on the Venom stand and leave their suggestions on a special board. If you're not going to the Game Fair, just write your ideas down on a piece of plain paper, together with your name and address and send it to Name That Rifle, *Airgun World*, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berks SL4 1BG. The closing dates for entries is Friday, August 15th. The winner's name and the name chosen will appear in our October issue.

United Kingdom Championship

One of the major highlights of the field target shooting year — the United Kingdom Championships — is once again to be held at Baggesbury Park on September 7th. Run in typically efficient style by the Stourvale Woodmen the shoot is bound to attract all the top field target stars from around the country.

We'll be publishing full details of the shoot — and our involvement with it — in next month's issue.

Sale Day at Harewood
Bargains galore will be the theme of P & J Springs' stand at this year's Game Fair. Once again, P & J Springs will be sharing a stand with Ray Ward in Gunmakers Row, displaying their full range of springs and spares for all Webley and BSA rifles. P & J's John Knibbs will also be autographing his latest book on BSA air rifles and will be selling Prometheus and Titan Black pellets at unbeatable prices. If you're going to the Game Fair, don't forget to visit the P & J Springs stand, number C355 in Gunmakers Row.

Colours Of The Rainbow!

If you're looking for a rifle with a difference visit the Leslie Hewett stand at the Game Fair. On display will be the new range of Diana Sport 1000 air rifles in a choice of either red, blue, yellow, white or black finishes!

The Leslie Hewett stand will also feature the new Diana Model 52 sidelever air rifle which has been designed for field and competition shooting.

You can see all these rifles and the complete range of RWS pellets and airgun accessories on the Leslie Hewett stand — stand number C363 in Gunmakers Row.

Skan Correction

In last month's *Airgun Scene*, we told you about Skan Electronics' special offer on Skan MK4 chronoscopes. Unfortunately the picture showed an earlier Skan model and the Skan MK4 is completely different and offers unbeatable value at £88 plus £3 for p&p while stocks last.

Venom Role Call

Bags of news this month from Venom Arms. Due to demand, Venom are about to introduce a new semi-match type stock which has been designed in conjunction with some of the country's top field target shooters. The new stock will feature a conventional fully adjustable butt-plate to suit all shooters and is best described as a cross between a Monte Carlo stock and a Tyrolean — embodying the best features of both.

Venom's new stock won't feature hooked butt-plates and thumbholes as Ivan Hancock has discovered that they are not allowed for silhouette shooting in the USA. Ivan hopes to have the stocks ready for the Game Fair where visitors will be able to see for themselves the virtues of their design for field target shooting. The other good news is that the new stocks will be available at a price that most shooter's can afford.

Venom have also announced that they are now importing a range of optically superb Leupold and Stevens scopes

Optima Bonus Prizes

In our July issue we announced the results of our May Optima competition. Due to pressure of space, we didn't have enough room to print the runner-up and the winners of the Optima cleaning kits. Our congratulations go to Mark Harris from West Glamorgan who will receive an Optima Moonlighter scope. The consolation prizes of Optima cleaning kits go to: A. Wright, J. Pleasant, J. Fletcher, B. Groom, P. Brighton, P. Richards, R. Evans, D. Ashcroft, J. Gardner and D. Havard.

Four For Kassnar

Top gun dealers Gunmark have announced four new scopes from Kassnar. The new scopes — two variable power and two fixed — are smaller and more compact than the present range and feature a new form of reticule.

Reticules have always been prone to damage, so Kassnar have etched the reticule on the optic for durability and crystal clear clarity. The new scopes will be slightly more expensive than the standard 4 x 32, and can be seen on the Gunmark stand in Gunmakers Row at the Game Fair, and on the Venom stand at our Airgun Fair.

All British Winner

British airgun fans are in for a treat very shortly as an all new pneumatic air rifle is shortly to hit the headlines. At the moment we can't give you more details as the designers are just putting the final touches to what looks like being a spectacular new rifle. All we can say is that the new rifle has been designed by one of the most respected names in the airgun scene today and built by a top airgun accessory firm — and it will probably be available in five calibres!

from the States. Once again, prices have yet to be fixed but Ivan and Dave will have samples at the Game Fair for all to see.

Finally, the Game Fair will also be the place to see Venom's new gun which they have designed and built in conjunction with Cindy Hunt from Cindy's Shooting Shop. The new gun is called the Piranha and is based on the highly acclaimed RWS 38. The new rifle will only be available from Cindy's Shooting Shop and Ivan reckons that the rifle is a real cracker. Complete with a scope, the rifle weighs around the 8½ lb mark and is very easy to cock, with power right on the legal limit.

Venom have added some of their magic to the rifle and fitted a special stock which is a cross between Monte Carlo and Tyrolean styles. Venom have also fitted one of their own silencers and carried out extensive modifications to the actions and barrels.

Our USA readers may like to know that this rifle will shortly be available through Venom appointed agents.

Khamsin Superstar



The Khamsin — next month sees the final instalment in our great free offer.

Collect this month's special coded star and you're only one star away from the chance of winning an Air Arms Khamsin rifle — complete with an Air Arms scope — absolutely free.

Visitors to this year's Game Fair will be able to see for themselves just how impressive this latest Air Arms masterpiece is as the Khamsin and the complete Air Arms range will be on display for all to see.

The man behind the Khamsin is Air Arms' Bill Sanders — a keen air rifle shot himself — and it is Bill's understanding of the modern airgunner's needs that heralded the birth of the Khamsin. New rifles don't happen overnight, and the Khamsin's pedigree is as impressive as any other top class sporting air rifle.

Air Arms already had a proved and tested action with the Camargue. Sidelever rifles have received rather a bad press in the past, with ratchet failures and cocking difficulties springing immediately to mind. Air Arms understood these problems as well as the potential for a well engineered sidelever system. The rest is history, as any Air Arms rifle owner will tell you.

Like most rifles, the Khamsin is the result of considerable research and development in the workshop and in the field. Field testing a rifle and assessing the shooter's needs are one thing, but putting theory into practice is another. This is where Air Arms really come into their own.

The Air Arms factory in Hailsham boasts some of the most up-to-date machinery available today. Mills and automatic lathes costing thousands of pounds ensure that each Air Arms rifle leaves the factory incorporating the very best in British airgun engineering.

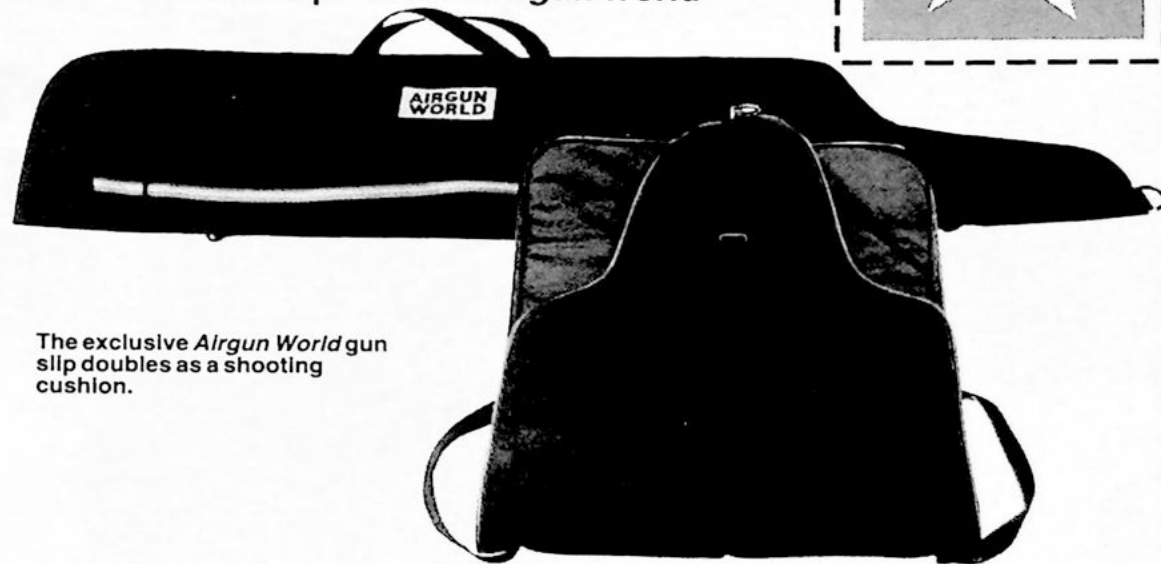
The wait is nearly over. Next month, we'll be printing the last of our coded stars for you to cut out and complete your Khamsin Superstar draw card. Don't forget to order your copy now!

And Now Golf!

Rivington Rifleman have done it again! First there was airgun snooker — a game that has really taken off all over the country — and now shooters can look forward to airgun golf! The game has been devised by Rivington's Ian Jones and John Poloczek and consists of targets set over varying distances to imitate a golf course.

Each shooter fires at the first target and cannot go on to the next until the target either falls or the shooter has fired five shots. If the target hasn't fallen after the fifth shot, the shooter then moves on to the next target. The winner is the person who completes the course with the minimum of shots. Tony Jacklin — eat your heart out!

Super New Gun Slip — From Airgun World



The exclusive Airgun World gun slip doubles as a shooting cushion.

With top air rifles costing literally hundreds of pounds, it makes sense to look after them. That's why we at Airgun World have designed our very own gun slip which not only offers your rifle superb protection, looks attractive and is easy to carry — but also doubles as a cushioned seat for field target shooting. In fact you can even use it to lie down on at muddy field target shoots!

Made from cordura nylon, the Airgun World gun bag is a bag with a difference as it doubles as a handy, comfortable seat-cum-cushion — ideal for all field target shooters. The slip has a full length zip, closed cell foam padding to protect your rifle and scope, and a butt holder to keep your rifle firmly in place.

We've also designed the slip with a handy slide pocket with enough room to house pellets, targets and score cards. Being fully adjustable, we reckon that the pocket is big enough to take even your lunch!

Once you've taken your rifle out of the slip simply fold it in half, secure the two halves together with the velcro pads on either end and your gun bag then doubles as a super soft shooting cushion.

The slip is also big enough when opened out for field shooters to lie on. After a day in the field you can just brush off any dirt and leave it up to try on the special Delrin loop fitted on the end!

In fact, we tried to design in all the best features an airgunner could possibly want from a gun slip — and we reckon that our slips represent the best in terms of quality and practicality around. The price is just as attractive, too! As a special Airgun World readers offer, we've managed to peg the price of these specially designed gun slips to give you the best value possible.

We've also made sure that our gun slips take all combinations of rifles, scopes and silencers, with a range of three different sizes to choose from. For the shorter carbine rifles fitted with silencers, the 42 inch size is ideal and costs just £19.50, while the 48 inch size, at £19.90, is the one to choose for the slightly larger rifle and scope combination. Long barrelled rifles fitted with silencers will find the 52 inch size ideal at £20.50 — and all sizes share the same design features.

Each gun slip comes complete with a smart yellow and black Airgun World badge on the pocket. Our bags are not gimmicks, but the result of what many shooters have always wanted to see in gun protection and shooter comfort. You won't see them in your gun shops as they are only available from us.

Visitors to the Game Fair will be able to see for themselves just how good they are, but for those readers who cannot attend the Fair, just fill in the form on this page and send your remittance to the address shown, adding £1.95 to cover postage and packing.

Apart from gun slips, we've also managed to secure a supply of very special rifle slings. Made from extra strong nylon, our Rainbow slings will ensure that you're not missed at field target shoots throughout the country. Each sling comes complete with Delrin fittings which are easy to adjust, and at only £2.90 they make great presents.

For those shooters who don't like the 'bright lights' look of our Rainbow slings, we have a quantity of olive green slings at the same price.

ORDER FORM

Please send me the following (specify quantity):

..... 42 inch Airgun World gunslips at £19.50 each	
..... 48 inch Airgun World gunslips at £19.90 each	
..... 52 inch Airgun World gunslips at £20.50 each	
..... Rainbow slings at £2.90 each	
..... Olive green slings at £2.90 each	
Postage and packing	£1.95

Total

Name

Address.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Airgun World.

Send your completed order form to Airgun World Gunslip Offer, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG.

If you don't want to spoil your copy of Airgun World by cutting out this form, write your order clearly on a sheet of paper and send it to the above address, enclosing your cheque/postal order for the appropriate amount.

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

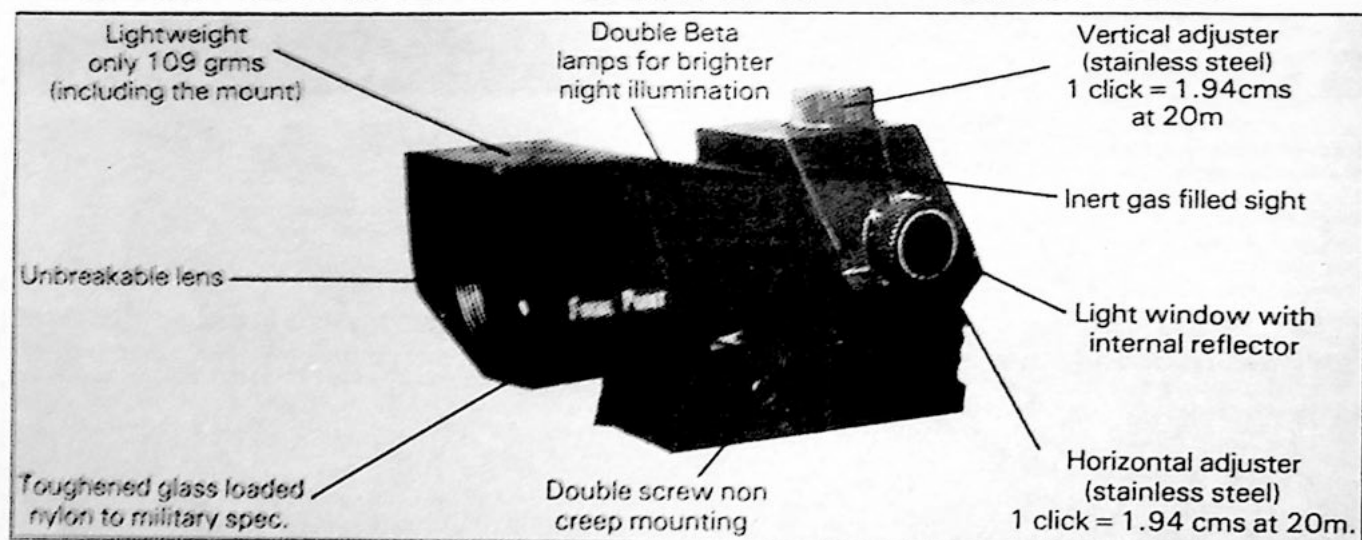
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UNDERLEVER DREAM! WIN this superb rifle from Venom Arms worth £450



You could win this superb Venom HW77 (top) for just 80p!

EVERY AIRGUNNER should have the opportunity to own his or her own dream rifle — and this month's competition gives you just that chance. In conjunction with Venom Arms we are offering a Venom speciality — a Weihrauch HW77 with a superb laminated stock. It is a completely unique rifle, and a prize that we are proud to be able to offer.

The HW77 is Britain's most popular airgun and is regularly at the top of our polls. This particular rifle is the sister to the *Dream Rifle HW80* that we featured in our January issue and which was judged to be the ideal rifle in a poll of our readers. The Venom HW77 likewise

combines an excellent action and dramatic finish to give an unbeatable combination of performance and looks.

Its carbine length barrel is fitted with a steel, one-piece Venom silencer — which gives the rifle great balance as well as cutting noise. It will also have a Venom 6 × 40 parallax adjustable scope, held firmly in place with a one-piece Venom mount.

The rifle comes complete with a leather sling and the entire package is worth around £450. We are sure you will agree that this adds up to a marvellous prize — and it could be yours for just 80p.

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do to win this month's sensational prize is to study the two drawings on this page and spot the eight differences between them. Using a pen or biro, ring the items in the right-hand drawing that are missing from the one on the left.

Send your completed entry form, together with a cheque or postal order for 80p to **Venom Competition, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1BG**. The closing date for entries is Friday, August 15th and the winner's name will be published in our October issue.



Name

Address

If you are under 17, an adult must sign on your behalf and give his/her name and address

In the event of a tie there will be a draw to decide the winner. I enclose a cheque/P.O. to the value of 80p, made payable to *Airgun World*.

Send your entry form to **Venom Competition, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1BG**. The closing date for entries is **Friday August 15th**.

Anyone involved in the preparation of this competition may not enter.

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Lisenfeld 4x40 scope. Sportsmatch one-piece mount.

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HW80 CUSTOM

Schmidt & Bender 4x32 scope. Air Logic silencer, cased.

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	4x40 WA	£69.95
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KASSNAR

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	2.75x40	£52.95
	6x40	£53.15
	6x40 WA	£61.00
	2-7x32 WA	£69.00
	3-9x40 WA	£70.70
	3-9x40 WA	£81.00
	Traj. comp	
	8x56	£88.15
	6-18x40 WA	£117.30

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Airsporter Air Rifle .177 or .22
Airsporter-S Air Rifle .177 or .22
Airsporter Stutzen .177 or .22
VS2000 .177 or .22
VS2000 Custom .177 or .22
Scorpion Air Pistol .177 or .22

AIR ARMS

Chequered wood stock
Mistral A/L
Mistral A/L without sights
Bora
Camargue
Camargue without sights
Mistral Standard

Military stock

Firepower
Firepower without sights
Hipower
Hipower without sights
Combat
Combat without sights

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Air Wolf .177	£42.00	£47.00
Air Wolf .22	£50.00	
Victor .177	£72.50	£57.50
Victor .22	£87.50	
Beeman C1 Carbine .177	£87.50	£75.00
Beeman C1 Carbine .22	£95.00	
Vulcan .177	£120.00	£79.50
Vulcan .22	£125.00	
Vulcan Deluxe .177	£145.00	£105.00
Vulcan Deluxe .22	£190.00	
Vulcan Sporter .177	£47.00	£155.00
Vulcan Sporter Left Hand .177		
Vulcan Sporter .22		£155.00
Vulcan Sporter Left Hand .22		
Omega .177		£110.00
Omega .22		
Omega Left Hand .177		£117.00
Omega Left Hand .22		

Side-lever

Viscount .177	£95.00
Viscount .22	
Viscount Deluxe .177	£120.00
Viscount Deluxe .22	
Viscount Sporter .177	£169.00
Viscount Sporter Left Hand .177	
Viscount Sporter .22	£169.00
Viscount Sporter Left Hand .22	
Viscount Tyrolean .177	£169.00
Viscount Tyrolean Left Hand .177	
Viscount Tyrolean .22	£169.00
Viscount Tyrolean Left Hand .22	
Tracker + scope .177	£150.00
Tracker + scope .22	
Tracker (no scope) .177	£99.50
Tracker (no scope) .22	
Tracker Deluxe + scope .177	£169.00
Tracker Deluxe + scope .22	
Tracker Deluxe (no scope) .177	£125.00
Tracker Deluxe (no scope) .22	

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GAME FAIR SPECIAL

Our guide to the Airgun Fair at Harewood House

BRITAIN'S PREMIER country fair — the CLA Game Fair — is the place for all *Airgun World* readers to head for. This year's Game Fair should be a real 'feast' for all airgun fanatics, because we've come to a superb arrangement with the CLA that will see one of the biggest ever gatherings — under one roof — of all the latest and best in airguns and airgun shooting.

In short, this year's Game Fair is the place to be if you've got the slightest interest in airguns. The Game Fair has traditionally been an annual pilgrimage for all field sports fans, with airguns and airgun shooting playing a relatively minor role. Now it has been decided that airguns and airgun shooting are one of the new and exciting features that will make what is already a great Fair even better.

In the delightful grounds of Harewood House, near Leeds, we've managed to assemble all the very best from the airgun world to bring you a show the likes of which you've never seen before! Under one roof visitors to the Game Fair will be able to see all the latest and best from Britain's leading retailers and manufacturers — including a number of new rifles and accessories which are being specially unveiled at the Fair. What's more, *Airgun World* readers will be able to see and try many of the products on display for the first time.

After last year's field target fiasco, the CLA and the BASC have made sure that the air rifle shooting at this year's Game Fair will be the best ever, with competitions every day in which you will have a chance to win some superb prizes.

As Britain's premier airgun magazine we feel that it is about time airguns had more of the spotlight — which has in the past been predominantly focused on our shotgun cousins. Now we have the right ingredients to take and promote our sport to new heights. Just read on and see what's in store at this year's Game Fair. We think you'll agree that every facet of our sport has been covered — and that no one should go home disappointed.

Airgun World At The Game Fair



This year's Game Fair promises to be the best ever.

This year's Game Fair promises to be one of the best ever and one that no serious airgunner should miss. You can read a full account of what's in store on the following pages — but we also have a few surprises in store for visitors on our own stand.

In fact we reckon that the *Airgun World* stand will be the place to head for, with some superb bargains and up-to-date information on all that's going on.

First, the bargains. On sale will be a host of goodies from targets to badges, as well as some 'special' items that we've designed and had specially made for the Fair.

Pride of place among these must go to the exciting new *Airgun World* gun slips and slings which we have described in full in this month's *Airgun Scene*. We reckon that these have every feature that an airgunner could want — and they're sure to be big sellers. We'll only have a limited supply at Harewood House — so don't leave your order too late!

Another major attraction on our stand — apart from the staff! — will be our immensely popular 'Bring and Buy' service. Visitors who attended *Airgun World's* Airgun Fair at Packington Park will remember some of the superb bargains featured on our stand and once again we've decided to give visitors a chance to sell their unwanted kit on our stand.

Due to limited space and the crowds our Bring and Buy stand attracted at Packington Park, we've decided to restrict the service to two items — rifle and scope counting as one item — per person at any one time. All you have to do is bring your items to our stand, give us your name and address — and the asking price. A five per cent handling charge will be made to cover overheads, and all goods will be left at the owners risk.

All we ask is that you collect the goods — or the money! — at the end of the day so we can give other fellow readers a chance to display their wares. If you've got an old rifle or pistol that you want to turn into cash, or are looking for a bargain, don't forget to visit our Bring and Buy stand.

On our stand we'll also have some of our super *Airgun World* sweatshirts and T-shirts in a variety of colours and sizes, as well as paper targets, cloth and metal badges and binders to keep Britain's best and number 1 airgun magazine in pristine condition.

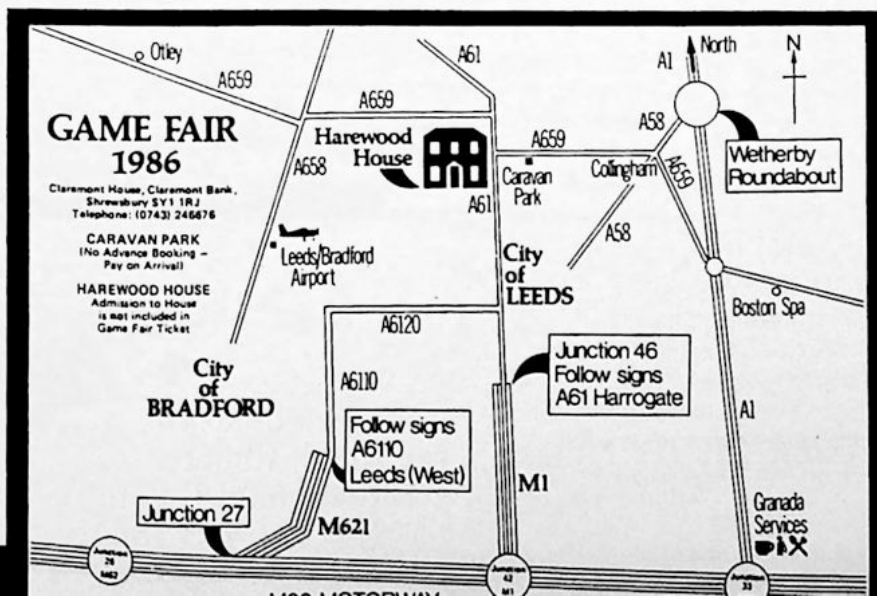
On hand will be *Airgun World's* Editor John Fletcher and the rest of the staff to answer any questions, as well as our team of writers to help you with any hunting, technical or historical questions.

The Game Fair attracts the biggest gathering of field sports enthusiasts in the country. Apart from airguns the Game Fair has something for everybody from clay shooting to gundogs. If you've got the slightest interest in country sports, you'll find the Game Fair a show not to be missed.

Every year the Fair gets bigger with more to see and do, which is why the Game Fair makes a great day out for all the family. Admission to the Fair on Thursday and Friday is £5.50, and £5 on Saturday. Children under 14 will be admitted free.

We look forward to seeing readers old and new at this year's Fair in what we think will be the airgun show to end all shows. See you there!

continued on page 26



ABBEY SUPPLY



Abbey Supply will have their full range of gun care products on display.

Gun sense is good sense. A well maintained air rifle or pistol will give years of sterling service. A badly maintained one will often bring frustration and, worse, still, danger to other people. We owe it to ourselves to see that our rifles and pistols are in pristine condition.

A vital part of any airgunner's gun care kit should be a comprehensive array of greases, lubricants and cleaning equipment. Abbey Supply are one of the few companies that have considered the modern day sporting air rifle and pistol as weapons with their own special maintenance requirements. The result is a range of specially developed oils, greases and aerosols that, when correctly applied, will give trouble free service for many years.

The Abbey range of products is simple. Abbey have designed special greases to help improve spring life and reduce wear and tear, and aerosols that should restore your rifle or pistol to its former glory. The message is simple — get the Abbey habit and have a rifle or pistol to be proud of.

The complete range of Abbey gun care products will be on display at the Game Fair, and visitors to the Abbey stand will be able to seek the best possible advice regarding gun care and maintenance. Abbey also produce a handy leaflet describing gun care in greater detail and the basic pitfalls to avoid.

So make sure you have the gun sense to visit Abbey Supply, who will be on stand number 13.

putting the 'Great' back in Hailsham based outfit. Arms have come a long way in a few years, with a range of products that have caused quite a stir in the airgun world.

Pride of place on the Game Fair will no doubt go to the new classy looking sportsman's Khamsin. Combining all the best of sporting rifle and using production machinery, Khamsin is a rifle that the airgunner will rate high on the list.

AIR ARMS



The Air Arms Camargue will be one of the 'stars' on the Air Arms stand.

will be the Air Arms first classic sporter two demand exceeded supply. Arms rifles, the Camargue is a cocking rifle that has been and manufactured to the possible standards.

Their stand will also feature a shooter's dream — the Mistr AL — as well as the military Firepower range. But it won't

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WORLD CLASS K1100 - HUNTING KNIFE



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Air rifle range that will draw the crowds — as their range of scopes and accessories are just as good!

If you're in the market for a scope, then take a look at the superb range of Air Arms quality optics. They take some beating — and so does their price! Rifles, scopes, silencers and a range of top quality gun bags will all be on display at the Game Fair. Air Arms are on stand 10.

AIRMASTERS



The Mastersport FT — a rifle that's bound to draw the crowds.

As they are one of the foremost airgun companies in the country today, it is not surprising to find Airmasters at the Airgun Fair at this year's Game Fair. Airmasters produce a range of precision-made customised air weapons and accessories. The Welham family who run the company are famous for their field target shooting prowess, but they have also produced superb rifles for hunting.

Research and development are paramount for this family firm from Luton, and new ideas are continually being tried and tested. The results of this can be seen in their Mastersport and Chameleon ranges. You will be able to see the full Mastersport Collection — featured in our colour section last month — at this year's Fair. The collection includes the top-rated Mastersport FTS and the Dominator — a rifle that is ideal for both hunting and competitive shooting alike — plus the sporting range headed by the Mastersport FT and their Tyrolean selection.

Along with the Mastersport Collection the stand will include the familiar range of Knockdown targets and many other accessories. John, Richard and Carol Welham will be on hand to show you their prestigious rifles, and to offer any advice about general airgunning matters. Airmasters will be on stand 2.

See the sensational new Piranha rifle on Cindy's Shooting Shop stand.

BARNETT INTERNATIONAL

Crossbows and longbows have come a long way in the last few years, and one of the companies responsible for the growth and development of this sport is leading manufacturer Barnett International.

Barnett have taken crossbows and longbows firmly into the 20th century by producing an array of bows that would make William Tell and Robin Hood shake their heads in disbelief! Like airguns, crossbows and longbows have recently come of age, and the Barnett range features the very best in craftsmanship and quality.

Visitors to the Barnett stand will be able to see for themselves just how far bow technology has progressed. Barnett produce the most exciting and stylish range of crossbows in the world from the new Phantom pistol crossbow to the all-powerful Thunderbolt compound bow.

Barnett bows have scooped a tremendous array of awards throughout the world — including the Queen's Award For Industry. The full Barnett team will be on hand to answer any questions and give you all the latest news from the crossbow and longbow scene.

Much has been written in the press about the misuse of crossbows and longbows, and if you're in any doubt about the intention of these products, pay a visit to the Barnett stand whose staff will be only too pleased to put your mind at rest. Barnett International will be on stand 1.

See the full range of Barnett products on the Barnett stand.

CINDY'S SHOOTING SHOP

Airgun World readers who visit the Cindy's Shooting Shop stand at the Airgun Fair will be in for a big surprise. Apart from displaying all the latest rifles, scopes and a host of airgun accessories, the airgun 'queen' will be launching her own all-new rifle — called the Piranha. This classy looking weapon has been designed by Cindy herself and should cause quite a stir.

Cindy reckons that the Piranha is a rifle with plenty of 'bite', and it is the result of requests from hundreds of shooters who want something different. Without giving too much away, all we can say is that this Piranha has a poisonous punch — the rest is up to you!

Also on Cindy's stand will be the range of Vixen scopes which have been designed for field target shooting and hunting. We've had a look at them and been very impressed — and Game Fair visitors will have the chance to try them.

Cindy will also be displaying a comprehensive array of weapons from Webley, BSA and Weihrauch, plus a selection of rifles from Venom Arms. On hand will be expert advice to help you choose the best possible equipment from pellets to custom rifles.

In fact, you'll find it all on Cindy's stand, with some superb shooting packages at unbelievable prices. Cindy herself will also be providing her special brand of helpful advice. Cindy's Shooting Shop will be on stand 15.

GUNPELL

Every serious airgunner dreams about buying perfect pellets. Even the best rifle or pistol and the very latest optical innovation will not compensate for bad ammunition. Now the progressive new firm called Gunpell have come up with an idea that has made 'fliers' a thing of the past.

Pellets — apart from some minor design changes — have basically remained unchanged for decades. Being made of lead, pellets can easily become damaged in tins or in the pockets of jackets. The slightest imperfection on the pellet skirt may result in a loss of power when inserted in the breech, and an inherent loss of accuracy.

What Gunpell have done is to produce a range of perfect pellets. Quite simply they have ensured that every Gunpell pellet in each special pack is identical and will produce shot to shot

continued on page 2



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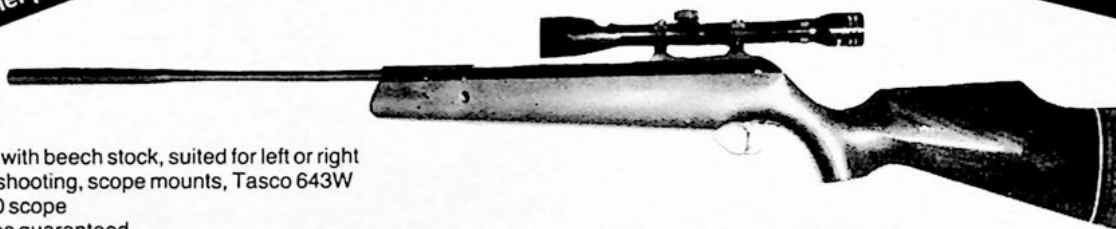
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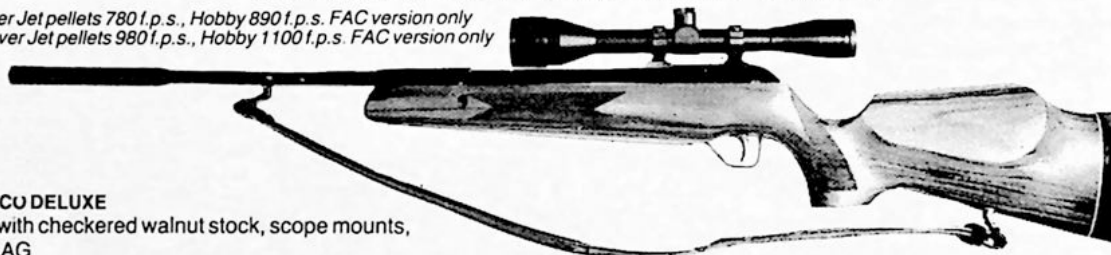


Fitted with beech stock, suited for left or right
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4 x 40 scope
12 ft lbs guaranteed
ADD £6.50 for Securicor and insurance

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.22 Silver Jet pellets 780 f.p.s., Hobby 890 f.p.s. FAC version only
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Fitted with checkered walnut stock, scope mounts,
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4 x 40 scope, sling and swivels. 12 ft lbs guaranteed.

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Specifications as above and for an extra £28.75 the power
will be set at 20/22 ft lbs in .22 cal.

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This has been specially developed for this demanding sport. It
features a barrel weight and heavier action, giving greater
stability. A short stroke giving the fastest lock time of any air rifle
and an adjustable recoil pad for maximum comfort. This rifle has
already achieved some notable success. 12 ft lbs guaranteed.
SPECIFICATION: Deluxe stock with adjustable pad, scope
mounts, Tasco AG 4 x 40 scope, sling and swivels.

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ADD £6.50 for Securicor and insurance.

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Combining choked Anschutz barrels and the patented Theoben system you have match accuracy and totally consistent power that never varies even
after thousands of rounds, no re-charging or re-springing, our gas system is totally sealed to perform in all conditions without maintenance. One
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SLING	£12
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SCOPE MOUNTS	£23
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12 ☐ 24 ☐ months. I am over 18 years yes ☐ no ☐

continued from page 27

consistency the likes of which you've never seen before. Most airgunners have used a pellet sizer — but Gunpell have made that a thing of the past.

Each Gunpell pellet is specially checked and weighed to ensure that you have the 'best of the bunch'. The pellets are then specially sized and packed in a plastic container which ensures that no damage can occur to the skirt.

These perfect pellets have already proved to be winners in the hands of some of the top shots and at the Game Fair you'll have a chance to meet the Gunpell team — who'll be only too pleased to give you further details on the Gunpell range. Gunpell will be on stand number 3.

HARPER CLASSIC GUNS

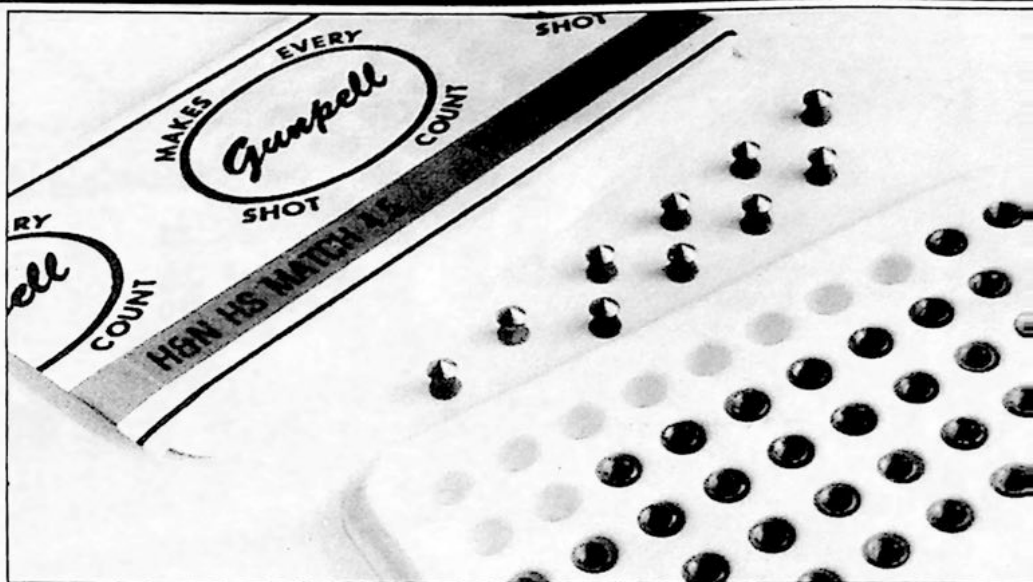
A unique attraction at this year's Fair will be Steve Harper's collection of air canes, which have been one of the most novel additions to the airgun scene in recent years. Earlier this year *Airgun World* featured Steve's new venture — and since then his business has boomed. Previously air canes were rare vintage items commanding high prices at auctions and arms fairs and consequently ownership was confined to a few collectors.

Steve's products combine superb craftsmanship with up-to-the-minute modern design at affordable prices. There is a choice of ornate walnut handles in the form of animal or birds heads. He also offers a special engraving service and fitted cases — which make the air cane an attractive personalised possession. Pride of place at the Airgun Fair will go to a matching pair of air cane and walking stick shotgun in fitted case.

As well as the air canes Steve will be bringing along his collection of air rifles converted to .25 calibre, and these include a Weihrauch HW77, HW80 and a Sharp Innova. He is also offering to change the calibre of any rifle and to tune any rifle for those interested.

Steve Harper's air canes provide an alternative to the antique examples from earlier ages, but they are likely to become collector's items themselves in years to come — and the Game Fair will be your chance to view them. Harper Classic Guns will be on stand 7.

Steve Harper's collection of air canes will be on show for all to see.



Make every pellet count with Gunpell pellet clones.

HILLER AIRGUNS

From Chorley in Lancashire top airgun retailer Hiller Airguns will be among the exhibitors at this year's Fair. Hiller Airguns specialise in collector's items, so if you are looking for any particular rare spare part then pop along to the Hiller stand. They will also have a selection of current airgun products including rifles, pistols and pellets. As a special service for the Fair, Hiller Airguns are offering the use of a chronograph for anyone interested in testing their gun.

The Game Fair will also be your chance to meet airgun author Dennis Hiller — the proprietor of Hiller Airguns — who has published a number of books on collecting antique air weapons. The most recent of these is the third edition of *Air Rifles*, which we publicised in our June issue and which has become a world-wide seller — and no doubt copies of this will be on sale at the Fair.

Also on display will be a selection of foreign airgun magazines from the USA and New Zealand — not quite up to the standards of *Airgun World*, we hope,

Meet Dennis Hiller on the Hiller Airguns stand.



but for anyone interested in the airgun scene abroad they are well worth a browse. If you have any queries about airgun collecting or anything of a general nature then Dennis Hiller will be only too pleased to help you. See Hiller Airguns on stand 4.

NORTHERN ARMS

A visit to the Northern Arms stand is a must. On the stand you'll find some of the most exquisite and ornately engraved rifles you'll ever see — and they shoot as well as they look!

The Northern Armoury range of custom specials is the brainchild of Bob and Andrew Presley, who will be on hand to discuss in fuller detail the

continued on page 30



The full range of Northern Arms custom specials will be on display.

continued from page 29

virtues of these striking rifles. Gold, silver, brass — you name it and you'll find it on most Northern Arms creations.

But it's not just custom specials that will fill the Northern Arms stand, as Bob and Andrew will have a superb array of 'standard' rifles and pistols as well as a comprehensive selection of all the latest airgun accessories.

Like all our exhibitors, Northern Arms will be only too pleased to help you with any problems, and if you've got a special idea that you'd like to see on your rifle or pistol, Bob and Andrew are the people to see.

Just as ornate as their rifles are the range of Northern Arms customised accessories including gold and nickel plated mounts, gold and nickel trigger guards and a fabulous range of custom stocks.

If you're looking for a rifle with a difference or considering a special 'one off', then head for Northern Arms — on a bright day, they're bound to stand out! Northern Arms are on stand 8.

OPTIMA LEISURE COMPANY

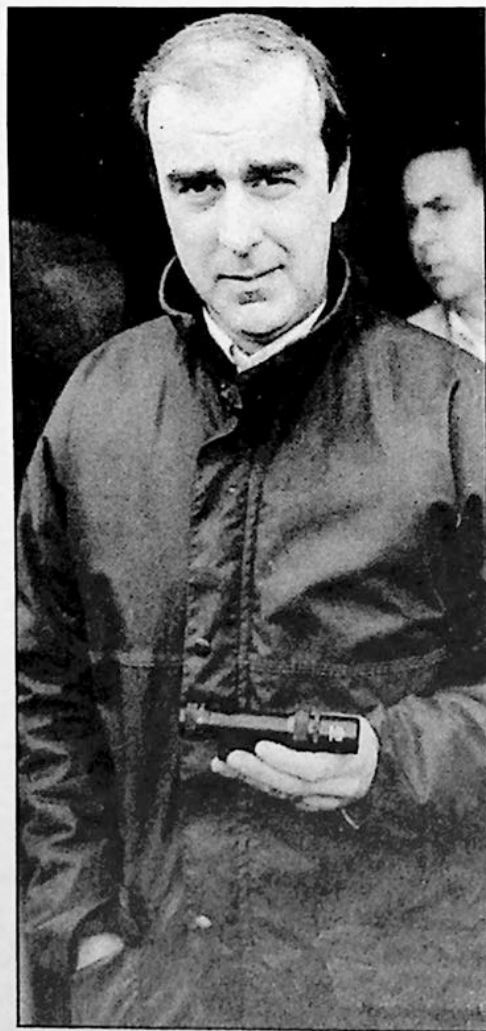
Optima Leisure have been serving the airgun industry for years. Their range of products is extensive and their service has grown to be one of the most respected in the industry. At this year's Game Fair, Optima Leisure is bound to be a stand that many readers will head for. On display will be their latest rifles and accessories — many of which will be at unbeatable prices.

But pride of place on the Optima Leisure stand will go to the superb array of Optima scopes that have proved their value time and time again. The range of Optima Moonlighter scopes has become a firm favourite with all shooters, and a close look will reveal why.

Quality and reliability — at a price that most airgunners can afford — are the key ingredients to Optima's success. Although basically a mail order firm, Optima Leisure have expanded in recent months and can now offer callers a chance to see their vast array of airguns and airgun accessories.

At the Game Fair, the Optima stand will feature all that's best in airguns and airgun accessories including their new Gamekeeper scope — a compact, lightweight scope that should appeal to both hunters and field target shooters. Anyone buying Optima products can be sure that they are getting value for money — and a no quibbles, money back guarantee.

Clothing will also be on display, and if you're looking for a new coat or pair of trousers, have a look at the range of Beaver clothing which represents excellent value for money. Optima Leisure products will be on stand 5.



The full range of Optima Leisure products will be on display.

SHARPSHOOTERS

Everything you could possibly want in airgunning accessories will be found on the Sharpshooters stand at this year's Fair. Colin Hodgson and his team will be on hand to show you all the very latest in outdoor clothing and equipment for airgunners.

There will be an extensive range of survival equipment for camouflage and concealment, including jackets, trousers, T-shirts, shirts, nets and a selection of camouflage creams — in all your very favourite colours! There will be a selection of rifle cases and slings, catapults and



Clothing and accessories for all on the Sharpshooters stand.

knives — in sporting, survival or military style. They will also have their small and large Hunter rucksacks manufactured in a very tough DPM camouflage fabric.

Sharpshooters will also be bringing along a number of new and second-hand air rifles and ammunition. They will be featuring their popular range of steel spinning targets along with a range of gun care products — in particular the new Triflow, a teflon based spring grease.

This stand will no doubt be a hive of activity and will be a must for the keen airgunner. But if browsing through everything proves too much then there will be a free copy of the latest Sharpshooters catalogue for you to take away and decide at home. Sharpshooters will be on stand 14.

TARGET SPORTS

Target Sports are the number one arms dealer in the north — and the north's top Webley, Air Arms and Barnett retailer. Since top international shot Ian Kirby opened Target Sports, he's never looked back. Now Ian has opened two more specialist air weapon centres — Yorkshire Air Weapons and Blackpool Air Weapons — to give shooters an even wider choice of top quality equipment.

At the Game Fair visitors will have the

chance to see all the latest rifles and pistols on the Target Sports stand, as well as the superb range of TS custom specials. Target Sports are also one of Webley's new Five Star dealers, so Game Fair visitors can look forward to some superb bargains from the Webley range.

Target Sports will also be featuring some of their famous shooting packages, designed and priced for all budgets. Apart from air weapons, Target Sports will have on show an incredible array of shooting accessories and clothing — in fact something for everyone.

If you're looking for a bargain, then head for Target Sports, who will be only too pleased to consider part-exchange. They will also be on hand to help you with any tuning questions you may have and offer excellent advice and guidance on any topic related to airguns.

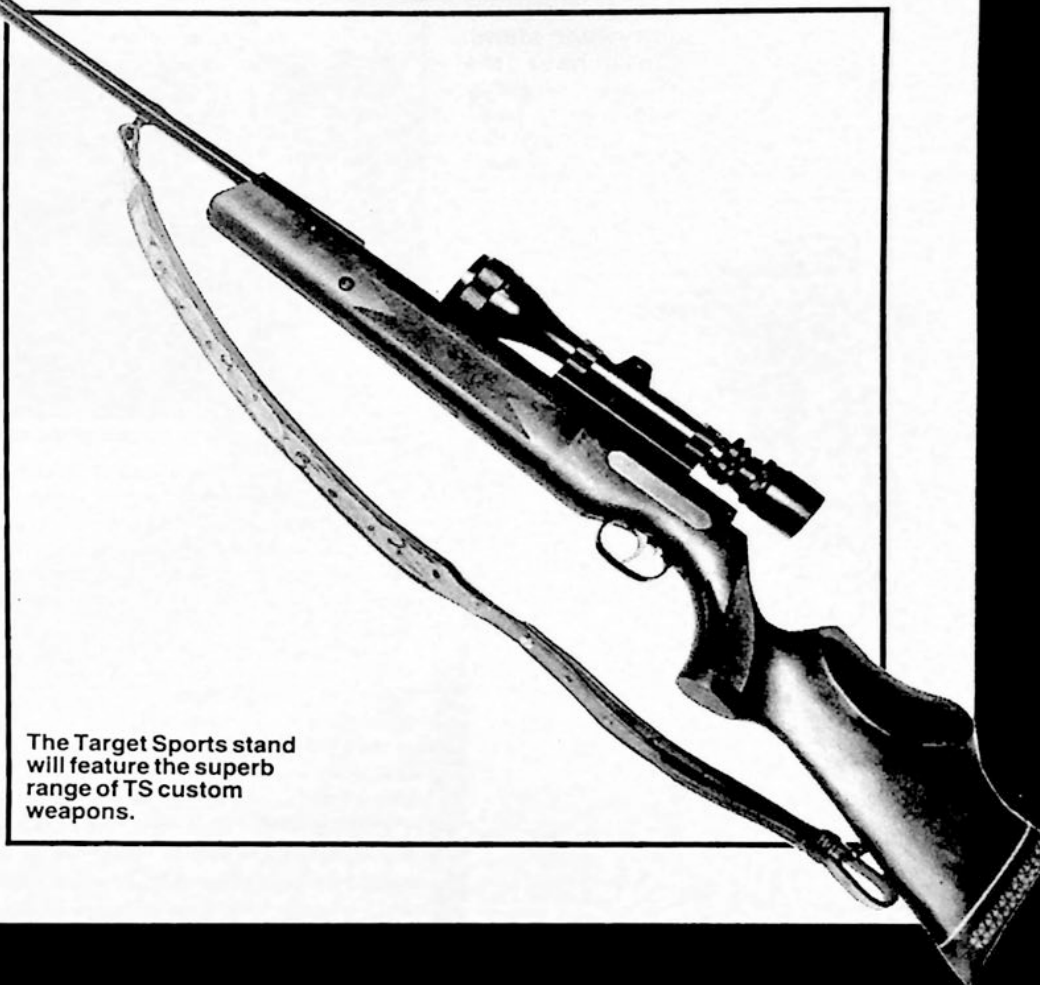
If you're thinking of buying British, or just want to browse at one of the best collections of air rifles and shooting accessories at the Fair, then don't miss the Target Sports stand. Target Sports are on stand 12.

TEAL COUNTRYWEAR

Teal Countrywear are a new firm specialising in producing top quality camouflage clothing — based on the famous Kammo pattern. Quality

continued on page 32

The Target Sports stand will feature the superb range of TS custom weapons.



Join over 75,000 B.A.S.C. members who have recognised the strength of this Association in protecting and enhancing the future of their sport.

B.A.S.C. provides representation at all levels — in the regions, in

As a sporting air weapons enthusiast, the B.A.S.C. offers you:-



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OR charge my Access/Barclaycard/Diners Card/
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Signature _____

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continued from page 31

clothing is important — as any serious hunter will tell you — and if you're looking for a new jacket or trousers, head for the Teal Countrywear stand.

Game Fair visitors will have the chance to see all their latest clothing designs, many of which have been designed specifically with the airgunner in mind for the very first time. The Teal Countrywear stand will feature some new ideas in outdoor clothing, including pugs and some new trouser designs



See the new range of Teal Countrywear at the Airgun Fair.

with proofed leg facings and facilities for knee pads — ideal for hunters and field target shooters.

Apart from their more specialist applications, Teal Countrywear will also have a wide range of clothing for everyday outdoor use from top quality cords to jackets. Teal Countrywear is run by outdoor enthusiasts, and it is their understanding of the sportsman's needs that makes their stand one to visit if you're in the clothing market.

All Teal's products are stylish, with no unnecessary frills or gadgets and have been developed after extensive research to give you quality garments that should last for years.

Short, fat, thin or tall, don't forget to visit the Teal Countrywear stand for the very latest in outdoor clothing. They are on stand 17.

VENOM ARMS



No airgun show would be complete without Venom Arms!

A quick glance at this month's colour pull-out will tell you why Venom Arms are the custom kings. At the Game Fair you'll be able to see all the latest Venom rifles and accessories that have made the Venom name one of the most respected in the industry today.

At any fair the Venom stand is always a hive of activity and their stand is bound to be one of the busiest at Harewood. On display will be the full range of Venom custom specials — including the new Venom HW85 featured in our colour pull-out.

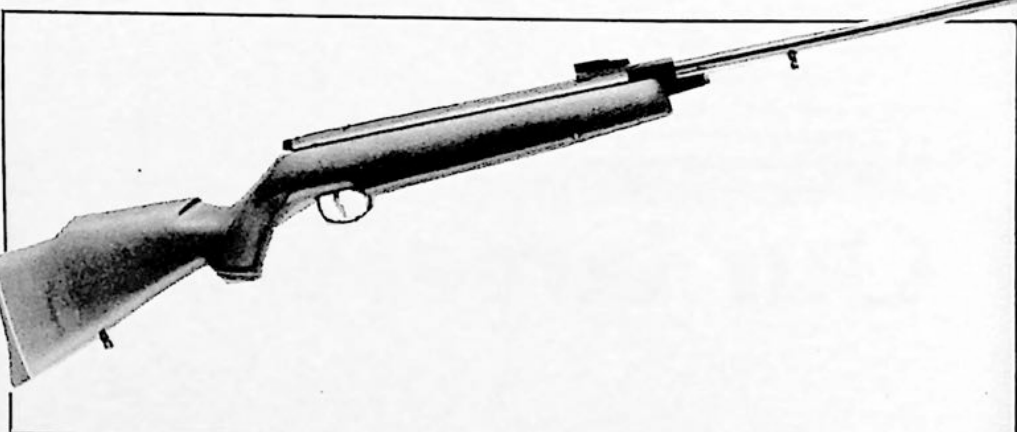
It is the Venom range of rifles that will create the most interest, but their array of scopes and shooting accessories is just as impressive. The full range of top quality

Venom scopes and special mounts, as well as their super silencers will all be featured on the stand. If you're after a sling, then take a look at the superb range of customised Venom leather slings, which make great presents — if you can bear to part with them!

But above all the Venom stand is the one to head for if you have any questions about airgun shooting in general. Both Ivan and Dave — together with the rest of the Venom team — will be only too pleased to help you and answer any questions you may have about Venom products.

Venom will also be featuring some exciting new products at the Game Fair, so make sure you visit the Venom Arms stand. Venom are on stand 9.

WEBLEY & SCOTT



No airgun show would be complete without one of the most famous names in British airguns — Webley & Scott. Webley & Scott are proving that British is still best, and a visit to their stand will tell you why. On display will be the complete range of Webley rifles and pistols, together with the vast Tasco range of scopes. Webley also have a great range of mounts, and of accessories, including their new silencer.

Established favourites such as the Webley Vulcan, Tracker and their flagship — the Omega — will be available for all to see. Over recent years, Webley have invested heavily in new plant and machinery, to produce air rifles and pistols that are second to none. This new technology has enabled Webley to work to very fine tolerances — which ensure quality and durability at a price that most airgunners can afford.

See the Omega and the full Webley & Scott range at the Airgun Fair.

With 60 years experience of airguns, Webley & Scott are also confident about the future. Their range of rifles and pistols has grown and kept in touch with the modern day shooter's needs — and it is this understanding that has helped Webley to new heights. The Game Fair will no doubt be buzzing with field sports fans of all ages — and many of the older generation who are familiar with the Webley name will no doubt be amazed at the change in their products.

For anyone contemplating buying a Webley rifle or pistol — or even one of their accessories — a visit to the Webley stand is a must. Advice will be freely available to all callers and it is a unique chance to see all the best of British airgunning engineering under one roof. Webley will be on stand number 11.

Set your sights on a Kassnar scope

SPEED FOCUS

Designed to give the quickest possible means of adjusting the focus. Most rifle scopes focus by rotating the entire eyepiece. Speed focus eliminates this problem by utilising the binocular focusing method.

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Silhouette Caps provide the shooter with instantaneous fingertip control of elevation and windage with positive click adjustment.



KASSNAR

*Parallax
Adjustables*

SCOPE FEATURES

Kassnar Parallax Adjustable Scopes are available in 4 x 28, and also in Wide Angle 4 x 32, 4 x 40, 2-7 x 32, 3-9 x 40 and 6-18 x 40.

Kassnar scopes are precision optical instruments incorporating advanced design. Waterproof, fogproof and shockproof in design in Standard and Wide Angle varieties with fixed or zoom magnification. Matt black finish eliminates reflective glare. All styles of scopes offer duplex reticules. Kassnar scopes are available in most magnifications from 2.5 to 18 x.

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From 2.5 x 32 to 8 x 56 — the choice is yours! Superb optics with all the features offered on the Kassnar range of rifle-scopes.



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Just view this scope to appreciate its quality — fixed power or zoom — from 4 x 32 to 3-9 x 40. There's a Kassnar scope to suit your needs.



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I sat quietly in the field, with the sounds and smells of summer all round me.



Arthur Shepherd enjoys some warm weather shooting

SUMMER SPORT

ALTHOUGH WINTER shooting has its attractions, it is during middle to late summer that I most enjoy my outings with the air rifle. As I get older perhaps my blood runs thinner, but I find I have not the same enthusiasm as when I first took up the sport to spend days crouching among leafless bushes, limbs cramped and the cold seeping through my thermals. Winter, I feel, is a time for more vigorous action and I must admit there are many occasions during the season of icy winds and frost hardened ground when the air rifle takes second place to the shotgun.

But for the long evenings of high summer through to the shortening days of harvest, when the ripening blackberries glow in the late sunlight, the midges bite in the lee of the hedge and white fingers of mist point along the hollows to the edge of night, the air rifle is without doubt the supreme hunting weapon.

Part of the attraction must stem from the fact that although it has reached an advanced stage of development, the air rifle is, after all, a comparatively primitive hunting tool drawing its power solely from human energy input, like a crossbow, slingshot or spear.

There is no scope for chemical assisted long-range killing — success depends upon the development and use of skills latent in most of us, plus patience, an increasing knowledge and understanding of our quarry species and a good deal of thought. So we use a primitive weapon to satisfy a primitive urge and no matter what the 'antis' may say, I believe we are all the better for it.

I fully agree with the fashionable cry to get back to 'nature' and I can think of nothing closer to nature than to kill an animal with my own hands, prepare it for cooking and enjoy it at the table. In fact I would go as far as to say that until you've done that, or been struck down by some predatory disease 'bug', you are experiencing the ways of the natural world only secondhand. If there is a definition of 'the moment of truth' it must be the moment when, with the cross-hairs centred on the

killing area of a live quarry, you pull the trigger.

As we haven't enjoyed rabbit pie at the table for some time, one evening recently I set out after tea to see if I could bag a couple of young, tender rabbits on the neighbouring farm. A soft breeze moved the ripening barley heads as I walked slowly along the headland towards a pasture field, where the grazing sheep and fattening lambs had trimmed the grass short enough for any feeding rabbits to be clearly visible. I wasn't in any hurry, for there was still plenty of daylight left, and I wanted to watch the pigeon flight lines and the activities of the rooks.

The rooks were of particular interest for they are the first to attack the ripening barley. By now all the young have left their nests and if there is a need to shoot one or two this is probably as good a time as any to do it, for they can be decoyed when feeding on ripening corn.

They usually start on the edge of a field close to a convenient fence or hedge, or on an area where the crop has suffered storm damage. Not only do they strip grain from the heads on the ground but they also knock over standing corn. A large flock of rooks can soon flatten a considerable area of a crop, wasting as much grain as they eat. Once they have made inroads into the crop, the woodies follow up and feed on the same area as the rooks. All this activity can give the air rifle user some good shooting and by lying hidden in the standing crop overlooking well set out decoys he can

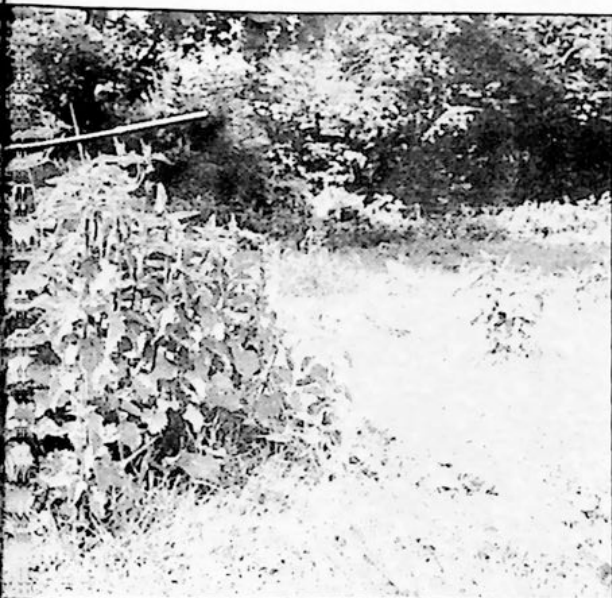
often make considerable bags of both species.

When setting out woodpigeon decoys in laid corn it is important to lift them high enough to be clearly visible to incoming birds. I usually place a few shell decoys on 3ft canes around the chosen patch, with full bodied ones near the centre where I hope the birds will land. I set up these by placing them on knots of straw made by lifting the laid straw and twisting it into a bunch with the decoy on top. It usually works well and at this time of the year, with plenty of young birds around, they seem to be easier to deceive than in the winter.

But this evening there was little evidence of the birds attacking the barley. I don't think it is ripe enough to entice them yet and from what I could make out the rooks were on their staple diet of grubs from the grass fields. This is the problem when deciding whether to shoot rooks or not. Although they can and do cause damage to some crops they also eat many thousands of insect pests which also reduce the yield of farm crops. A large flock of rooks probing a pasture with their strong beaks in search of wireworms are doing nothing but good and it would be foolish to shoot them.

I still believe that on balance they do more good than harm and if a farmer insists I do shoot a few I much prefer to shoot only one or two and hang these up on posts set up in the crop as a deterrent to the others. In most cases this appears to work, but then there is the problem of foxes which remove the carcasses overnight if they are not set up high enough, and it's surprising how high a fox can reach. One way to overcome this is to douse the shot birds with paraffin or diesel oil, which seems to render them highly unpalatable even to hungry foxes.

I sat for quite a while under the hedgerow, watching the day draw to a close. All around me were the sounds and smells of summer — the endless cooing of woodpigeon echoing in the wood, the songs of the warblers, the drone of a bumble-bee among the hedgerow flowers, the scent of meadowsweet growing in the



A rabbit caught my eye about 25 yards away and stood erect.

damp ground along the ditch and the smell of the ripening barley. High overhead housemartins plucked insects from a darkening sky and shiny black swifts, racing round and round over the farm buildings, screamed at the approaching darkness.

Out on the pasture a movement caught my eye as a three-quarter grown rabbit left the cover of a patch of nettles less than 25 yards away and stood erect, ears pricked and nose twitching, to examine his immediate environment. He didn't do a very good job for he failed to spot me lying in the hedge down wind of him and I doubt if he heard the gun go off. He rolled over onto his side and apart from a couple of twitches lay quite still, his white belly showing pale

Two more rabbits moved out of cover later, but they were too far away to risk a shot.

against the dark green of the nettle patch.

The sound of the rifle disturbed a woodpigeon from an overhanging tree, but this apart there was no other movement and I stayed where I was, watching and waiting. Soon two more rabbits moved out of cover and onto the short grass, but they were too far away to risk a shot and I let them be.

Some time later a commotion of blackbirds and rooks drew my attention to a clump of trees on the far side of the field and almost immediately a fox moved out into the open, probably a vixen on the hunt. She made her way at a steady trot diagonally across the open ground, stopping once to scratch herself before moving off again into the gathering gloom. The two rabbits noted her presence but made no move toward the safety of the woodland cover and were back to head-down grazing before she was fully out of sight.

I had almost decided it was too dark to see and was about to retrieve my rabbit when another appeared from almost the same spot as the first. He ambled out of the cover and hopped lazily to where the

corpse of my first victim lay on its side in the dew soaked grass, scented it briefly then, like the vixen, scratched his ear vigorously and moving away he too began to graze. The light was now so poor that a shot with open sights would have been impossible, but by moving the zoom lens onto a higher magnification I was just able to see well enough to place the pellet exactly where I wanted it and he also bowled over to lie dead on the sweet grass of the pasture.

I paunched both rabbits at the edge of the wood, leaving the guts for the fox or the scavenging carrion crows' morning feed, and made my way slowly back to the car. Even now it wasn't completely dark for there was enough light to make out the track across the field and to see small bats flitting along the edge of the trees.

As I drove home through the village, which is now a dormitory area for people working in town, the flickering light of television was reflected from the walls of countless living rooms through thin summer curtains and I wondered if they were perhaps watching 'nature' programmes.



Above: The rabbit failed to spot me, though, and I doubt if he heard the gun go off.





Match training can be very frustrating at times and if you do not think correctly it can have an adverse effect on you. Many faults can only be discovered and corrected inside yourself. A coach can see you outside, but he cannot feel the tension in your body — and it is what goes on inside that counts.

I had decided that January 2nd, 1986 would be the day my training started. How it would be made up depended on what I discovered in the two months before Christmas, and I decided to take a look at the situation every four months. This would allow me to make corrections or alterations to my plans.

Each training plan would last eight weeks, with built in days off and planned breaks of up to two weeks during the first year. But as I have already said I did not know what form it would take, although I did feel it would centre on fitness for about the first six months.

I looked out my old shooting diaries again to see if I could spot any flaws in the plans I used before. I soon discovered that I tended to put too much emphasis on actually shooting and dry firing. I think I overdid it by quite a long way, but even so 95 per cent of the time I got it right on the day.

While looking through the diaries I noticed where I was training for one specific

match at Alton, Hampshire in August 1980. The object was to shoot 380-plus — a barrier I used to have in my head!

I had started working my plan in April, which included nine open 10 metre shoots, with the ninth at Alton. I kept a performance chart with specific goals to be reached on the way. These weren't necessarily to win a match, but perhaps just to achieve a better third string, if I had been letting myself down there. Each goal set was possible for me and was designed to reach the magical 380-plus which kept eluding me in competitions.

I could see the peaks and troughs on my chart and they were quite predictable from week to week. My diary also showed that, due to over-training, I had one complete disaster on the way when I missed my goal by a mile.

At the end of the day I achieved what I had set out to do because at Alton I achieved my goal with a score of 384. I came second but that did not matter as I had hit what I had aimed for and was satisfied.

Incidentally, a young lady won the match that day, also with a personal best score I believe of 386 ex 400. Her name was Sarah Cooper and her husband Malcolm was third.

Next month I shall describe my training plan in more detail.

THE NEW WEIHRAUCH HW45 .22 A HAND GUN THAT'S WORTH GOING FOR.

Once you've seen and held the new Weihrauch HW45 air pistol, one thing becomes immediately obvious.

It is without equal. Either for quality of construction. Or performance.

To start with, the grip. Vertical grooves at the front and back, together with the generous hump, make it a real handful.

Yet, at a mere 2½lbs, surprisingly light and well balanced.

The adjustable, two-stage trigger is as smooth as silk for accuracy, good grouping and has a dry firing stage.

The .177 has two power positions for Target and Hunting use. Both the .177 and .22 calibre models have an adjustable rearsight which makes them ideal for indoor target and outdoor shooting respectively.

As to safety, the HW45 has been designed for left or right handed shooters with a highly visible safety catch on both sides of the frame.

Beautifully finished in matt black with walnut grips, the new Weihrauch HW45 is well within your price range.

Go and see your nearest stockist. Or write to us today.



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CLUB CALL

**Lesley Shepperdley
visits Avon
Hawks
ARC**

Right: A few of the
stalwart members of
Avon Hawks ARC.



Left: Avon Hawks' tree shoot always creates a lot of interest from visiting shooters. Inset: It's hard to believe that this was once dense undergrowth!



WHAT AIRGUN CLUB wouldn't jump at the chance of having 5½ acres of woodland in which to shoot, set in the remains of an old country estate in the heart of the beautiful Avon countryside? None I'm sure. But what if the woodland was completely overgrown, with no paths, no proper access for cars and nowhere to park?

Avon Hawks ARC found themselves in this situation, but with a lot of hard work from their members they have turned their overgrown, wild piece of land into a superb air rifle range — and they did it all themselves.

The club moved to their present ground at Mendip Wood Lodge, Blagdon about a year ago, as their former venue at Dundry was unsuitable. They heard about the land through the club President, Alan Betteridge. 'As I'm gamekeeper on Sir John Wills' estate here, I approached him about using some of the woodland for an air rifle range and he agreed', Alan explains. 'Unfortunately there were no paths or clearings in the wood, so about 10 of us spent our winter months clearing the trees and vegetation, putting gravel down to make a road up to the shoot and knocking down part of the old stables to form a car park'.

The amount of work they have carried out has to be seen to be believed and it's hard to imagine that this well-built, safety conscious range high up on a hill, with facilities including ladies and gents toilets, was once dense undergrowth.

The 30 target main shoot is divided into six avenues of five targets, set on a hillside in woodland. Each range is numbered and shooters must start from target number one and shoot them in order. 'We've made the first range the easiest to let shooters build up their confidence and calm their nerves', Alan explains. And by the time I got to the last set of targets I could see what he meant, as the first range did seem comparatively easy!

Alongside the main shoot is a superb 50 yard zeroing range, a pistol shoot, a skittle shoot with nine knockdown targets, and a tree shoot. Here the club have placed 10 targets in branches and in the undergrowth,

which you shoot from a platform about 10 feet high. The targets are set in two groups of five so that one marshal can oversee two shooters at a time. 'This always creates a lot of interest with visiting shooters', Alan says.

Work hasn't finished at the club yet, though. During the summer the undergrowth has to be kept down and this winter they hope to clear some more of the land to make another range, so they can run two shoots at one time. 'We also plan to fence off the whole area', Alan added, 'as soon as we find the time and, of course, the money to do it'.

The club has also just gained planning permission to build a club house on the remains of one of the buildings. Here they hope airgunners will bring along their families and friends to make an air rifle shoot a family day out.

At present Avon Hawks ARC's membership stands at about 40 — including the recent addition of British Masters Champion Richard Beaugie. 'About 10 juniors and five lady shooters are regular visitors to the club', secretary Nancy Griffiths explains, 'and we also get quite a few ladies who take up the sport when they come along with their husbands or boyfriends', she says.

'Junior shooters tend to visit the ground for a few months, then they disappear', Alan added. 'But the main thing is that they've learned the basics of safety and know how to handle an airgun responsibly. We do have a lot of younger shooters at our indoor air rifle and pistol range at St Paul's Church in Bedminster, though, which attracts shooters from Bristol. We meet



The club's ground at Mendip Wood Lodge provides a variety of testing targets.

there on Tuesday evenings in the crypt and we also hold club meetings there once a month'.

Avon Hawks hold three open shoots a year, and attract about 100 shooters to each. They've had shooters travel from as far away as Kent and Scotland to attend, and with an entry fee of just £1.50 for the main shoot and 50p for the side shoots it's not surprising. 'We always have a chronograph in use at the open shoots', Alan says, 'to test everyone's rifle before they take part, and we don't shoot at our own events. We don't think it's fair that we shoot during a competition as we've put on the targets and would obviously have an advantage over the visitors'.

The club also keep themselves busy visiting other open shoots up and down the country, and they hold regular 6 yard and 10 metre shoots with King Edmund ARC in Bristol. This has been made a little easier by their sponsorship from Westbury Guns, who help the club with various accessories. 'Westbury Guns have been a great help to the club over the past few years, and so have New Avon Arms who sponsored our last shoot', Nancy adds.

Avon Hawks are looking for new members at the moment, so if you'd like to practise on some well laid out ranges with excellent targets in a beautiful woodland setting, contact Nancy Griffiths on 0934 852951.

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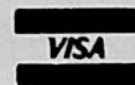
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"The rifle just keeps getting better. Accuracy and consistency are unsurpassed by
any other sporting air rifle ... the weight and balance are superb" — Alan Hamer, Manchester Airguns

WARM, CLEAN AND CLEAR!

Jonathan Wilkes tests some new airgun products

MR HOT

The middle of summer might seem a strange time to think about buying accessories to keep you warm, but I have discovered such a good one this month that I didn't want to lose a second in bringing it to your attention.

Those of you who are keen, all-year field shooters will no doubt be well aware of the importance of keeping warm when outside. The penalties for not taking adequate precautions can range from mild discomfort at best to exposure, hypothermia and death at worst. Even during the summer, the temperature can drop to a chilling level during the night — as any lamping freak will tell you. The problems are accentuated by the airgunner's need to remain still for long periods, which can make a cool night feel cold.

One solution to this is obvious — wrap up warm — but this is not the whole answer. Can you honestly see yourself setting out on a warm summer's afternoon, wearing two sweaters just in case it becomes colder later in the evening? I always think that I can get away with less than I need — only to discover a creeping coldness through my extremities as the small hours arrive. An ideal solution would be a small, compact, easily transportable source of heat, and that describes 'Mr Hot' perfectly. But who — or what — is Mr Hot, you ask?

Mr Hot is a heat pack about 4 ins x 6 ins which weighs only a few ounces. Several Mr Hots — or should that be Messrs Hot? — will fit into your shooting jacket pocket without any trouble, where you can forget about them until they are needed.

When you do feel a little chilly, simply tear open the outer packet of one of the heat packs, shake the inner pack vigorously up and down and place it wherever you want the heat. Shaking the packet in this way allows the oxygen in the air to mix with the chemicals in the pack and they begin to emit heat.

It's quite a decent heat, too, as the outer packaging proudly proclaims an average heat of 59°C for 20 hours. In fact, the heat output varies with time and the last few hours of heat are slightly less than the rest.

Mr. Hot

- Instant heat upon shaking
- Average 59°C (138°F) warmth
- Stable heat for 20 hours
- Contains no harmful chemicals

How to apply:

- 1 Remove the heat pack from outer cover
- 2 Activate the pack by shaking
- 3 With red line facing out, apply to required part of the body, avoiding direct skin contact

Caution
Keep out of the reach of children.
Do not apply directly to skin as a precaution against possible burn.
Dispose of the pack safely after it has cooled.

IDEAL for all Outdoor Activities

FUMAKILLA LIMITED
Distributors: David Anthony Pharmaceuticals Limited, Edwards Lane, Speke, Liverpool L24 9GH.

Mr Hot is ideal for use outdoors in winter.

Nevertheless the warmth afforded by this small pack is commendably good and is more than enough to keep away both the chill of the summer night air and the deep seated frost of a crisp winter's day.

The price is very reasonable at only 59p per pack and they should be available from your local chemist. Large chains such as Boots don't stock them yet, but if you have any difficulty in obtaining them you can write direct to the distributors, David Anthony Pharmaceuticals Ltd, at Edwards Lane, Speke, Liverpool L24 9GH and they will be pleased to supply you direct.

OPTIMA CLEANING KIT

Airgunners will go to extraordinary lengths — and expense — to ensure that their guns give optimum accuracy and consistent power. Yet the most obvious area is often left untouched for months on end — the barrel!

I know what you are going to say before you even think it. 'I thought that we were

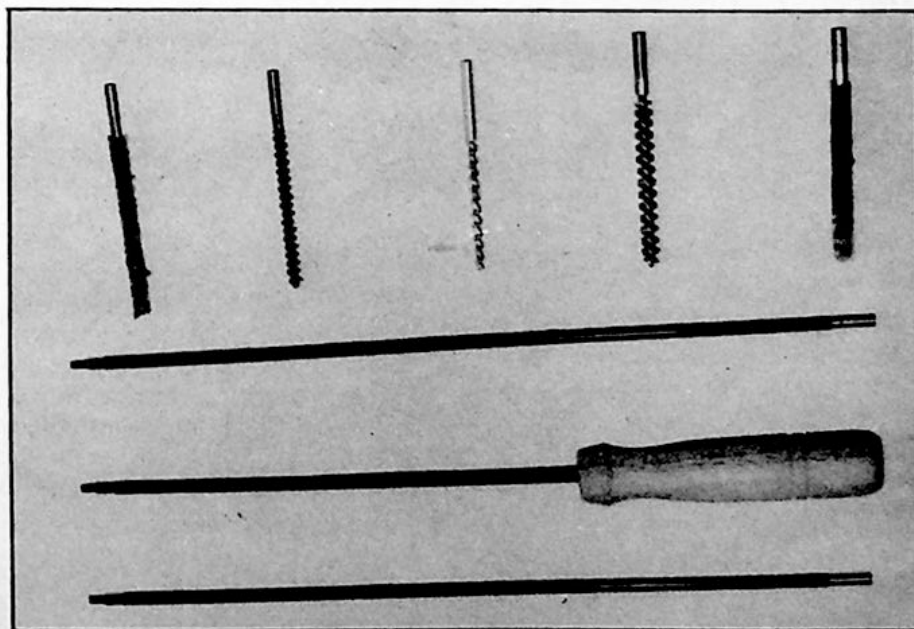
always being told not to clean our barrels because it upsets the accuracy?' This is partly true — if you continually clean your barrel before and after every shooting session then your accuracy will suffer.

Any barrel, whether it belongs to an air rifle or cartridge rifle, has minor imperfections along its bore which will tend to scrape lead off the projectile as it passes over them. After a few dozen shots, however, these blemishes are covered completely and the process is halted. From this point on, the barrel is as accurate as it can be and maximum accuracy will have been achieved.

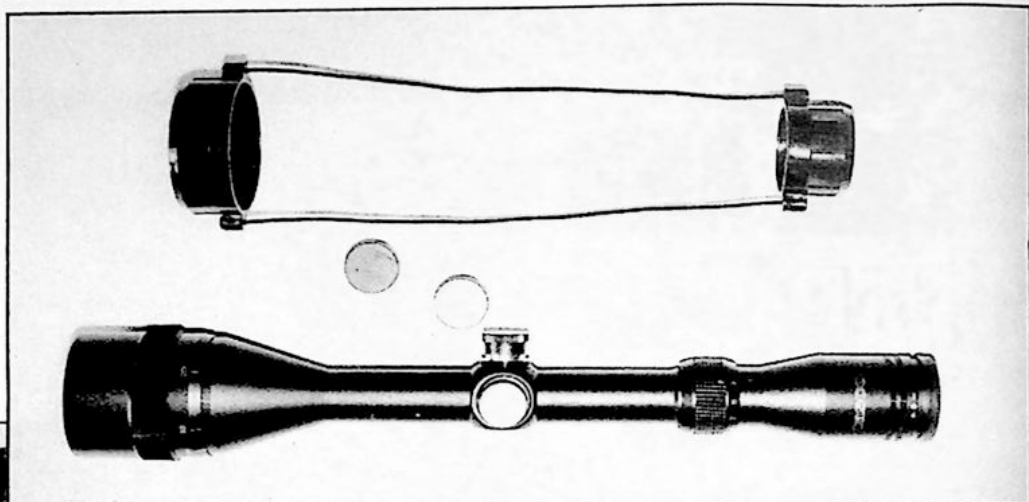
What most airgunners fail to appreciate is the difference between small deposits of lead and larger deposits of dirt and grit. The latter do nothing to aid accuracy, but they will build up slowly and surely over a period of time and it is for this reason that an air rifle barrel must be cleaned occasionally.

In my opinion shooting slugs through the bore of an air rifle does little to rectify this,

Optima's
cleaning
kit is
super
value for
money.



Right: Tasco's 3-9 × 50 offers top quality at an affordable price.



The focussing ring should have a reference dot.

and what is required is a thorough scrub through with a cleaning kit — enter the barrel cleaning outfit from Optima Leisure Products! Imported from Germany it features all the usual attachments in both .22 and .177 calibre, such as phosphor bronze brushes and soft mops. Where this kit scores over others is its quality and its length.

Let's start with its quality. A solid wood handle means that you have a decent grip on the tool while cleaning the barrel. While this may seem a trivial point which could be taken for granted, you would be surprised at the number of cleaning rods in use that are uncomfortably small.

Some thought has been given to the design of the rod itself. A bare steel finish would almost certainly damage the bore more than the dirt that you were removing. Therefore, a sturdy, but safe plastic cover surrounds the central rod and the brass connectors are sunk slightly below the level of these protectors so that they cannot cause any damage either.

I mentioned that this rod was also notable for its length. It stretches to 31 inches with all the extension rods and a mop attached, so there can't be many air rifle barrels around that it cannot clean!

For just £6.50 you could be the proud owner of this excellent device. I reckon that my rifle's continued accuracy is worth that — don't you?

TASCO SCOPES

There can't be an airgunner alive who hasn't heard of Tasco telescopic sights. They produce a scope of just about every possible specification, and if you can't find what you want in their range then it probably isn't made anywhere in the world!

Their latest offering is the FM range of scopes which have, quite rightly, been the subject of high praise. I have been lucky enough to use their 3-9 × 50 scope recently and while I don't think that they have quite achieved it yet, they have got closer to the ultimate in terms of the price/performance trade off than any other manufacturer of realistically priced glassware.

I have seen this scope advertised in the £100-£110 price range, and for that money it is more than worth consideration. It doesn't matter at all what 'functions' a telescopic sight possesses if its optics aren't up to scratch. Tasco's always have been and the tradition is continued with this model.

A 50 mm diameter objective lens is the ideal compromise between 40 mm and 56 mm being a combination of large light-gathering potential with reasonably light weight, as well as removing the need for hi-rise mounts. The extra 10 mm diameter gives a staggering increase in lens surface area of more than 50 per cent over any 40 mm scope.

For the airgunner who doesn't intend to buy several scopes but instead prefers to buy one 'multi-purpose' item, a zoom is the obvious choice. It must cover a useful range, though, and 3-9 seems to have become the *de facto* standard in this respect. Perhaps the 9× is a little excessive, but it is useful when you want to scan the treetops for roosting pigeon. This you can do, incidentally, no matter how close the pigeon are because this scope has a focussing objective lens for parallax adjustment.

Doubtless this adds a little to the weight of the finished article but I think that it is worth it. The scale for this adjustment extends from below 10 metres to in excess of 200 — or infinity for all practical purposes. This should be enough even for

those airgunners who have the most exaggerated ideas of their airgun's abilities!

Strangely enough, Tasco have opted for the Kassnar style of 'speed-focus' ring around the eyepiece. This is much superior to the more conventional locking ring system, but only if the maker provides a reference dot on the rotating ring. Tasco haven't done this with their 3-9 × 50 scope. What use is a ring that rotates quickly if you have no idea whether it has been knocked off position and if so, which way?

Everything else about the optics is as you would expect, though — excellent! Irrespective of the magnification used, the sight picture was unusually bright — due no doubt to the size of the lens — and wonderfully sharp. And so it should be.

The crinkle black finish on the body of the scope looks hard-wearing enough, but my test model had received a couple of marks somewhere along its travels before I received it. They weren't serious, though, and I think that any owner would have to abuse it very severely before the finish suffered.

Zero adjustment is via the excellent Positrac adjuster system. This is everything that the original BDCs should have been from the very beginning. Graduated in much the same way as a micrometer scale, you first zero the rifle at your usual range and then undo the adjuster turret cap with the supplied allen key — it's the little touches that show the class — and rotate that until it reads '0' on the scale before locking it up again. From now on, any movement of the dials from their zeroed position is easily visible and compensation for range and wind can easily and accurately be made. Resetting afterwards is easy too!

Few faults, but excellent quality throughout. Worth the money? You bet!

UNIT 1, Gun Barrel Industrial Centre, Haysech, Warley, West Midlands is the quiet, historical and appropriately named home of the country's best known air rifle specialists — Venom Arms. As a company Venom Arms need no introduction. Over the years they have established themselves as one of the most forward thinking and innovative companies in the airgun world.

But this technical prowess and the respect it has earned, hasn't happened overnight. Under the auspices of Dave Pope and Ivan Hancock, Venom Arms have changed with or often ahead of the rapidly changing times — times that have seen the rise and fall of many overnight 'stars' — until, at the end of the day, only the strong survive.

You could be forgiven for thinking that Venom Arms are a large company mass producing custom specials the same way Ford do cars. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. In the best English gunmaking tradition, Venom pride themselves on the amount of hand finishing that goes into every Venom product — from specially contoured triggers to some of the ornate engraving featured on a number of their rifles.

Venom may have found their fame in the custom market, but they haven't forgotten their grass roots, as anyone who knows the Venom staff will tell you. From a tin of pellets to the most expensive custom rifle from the Venom stable, you'll find the service the same. Venom Arms is a shop — not a warehouse or factory churning out rifles and accessories — where advice and help to airgunners old and new is freely available. And it is this fact alone that has made Venom's base a meeting point for shooters of all ages.

You could almost call their base a living museum of airgun technology old and new. The Gun Barrel Industrial Centre is steeped in history, and much of that history can be felt as you enter the shop for the first time. Once inside, you'll find it difficult to leave — the atmosphere is that compelling.

In the front of the shop you'll find racks and display units housing rifles and pistols costing anything from £50 to over £500. Venom also stock a range of rifles for shooters who don't want to go to the expense of a custom special, too. Famous names such as Webley, BSA, Feinwerkbau and Weihrauch can all be found as well as a range of optics and shooting accessories for the airgunner with a limited budget.

Behind the counter lies the heart of Venom Arms — the workshop. It is here — for all to see and hear! — that the superb creations you see featured in the pages of *Airgun World* and at shoots throughout the country are conceived. The Venom Arms workshop is staffed by airgun fanatics who are constantly looking for new ways of making already fine rifles even better. Using modern machinery Venom transform ideas into creations that may, after exhaustive testing, reach the shelves — or the bins.

It is from this workshop and the hands of skilled workers that this month's colour pull-out comes — the new Venom HW85. It is no coincidence that Venom have a custom version of this exciting new rifle available even before the standard model has hit the gunshops. But like all new designs — guns

AIRGUN WORLD

PULL-OUT VENOM ARMS NEW HW85

A Crack Unit

or cars — the original idea starts in the brain. Where Venom score, and others fail, is in their understanding of the modern airgunner's needs. Both Dave and Ivan are fanatical shooters, with Ivan preferring the 'quieter life' out hunting. Dave, as any serious field target shooter will tell you, is a crack shot and can be found most weekends putting theory into practice. It is the combination of Ivan's experience in the field and Dave's understanding of the rapidly growing field target world that make Venom products what they are today.

This close understanding of the sport, plus the combination of their talents and engineering skills, enables Venom Arms to offer products that appeal not only to the general public but also satisfy their own exacting demands. Only after exhaustive testing and often extensive modification will gun, scope, or the smallest of accessories merit the famous 'Venom approved and tested' mark.

Anyone buying a Venom product can be sure that they are getting the best value money can buy. But in the rare event of a fault, however small, you can rely on Venom to rectify it or replace the item in double quick time. It takes a long time to

build up a reputation like Venom Arms have and they pride themselves on satisfying their customers.

But the Venom service doesn't just revolve around guns and accessories. Visitors to the shop will be able to get the best advice around. No problem is too small and the Venom staff will be just as glad to replace a screw on an old plinking gun as they are to tune and refine a rifle costing ten times the price.

Air rifles have come a long way in recent years, and much of the design and technical improvements embodied in the modern day sporting air rifle are a direct result of Venom's experience and ideas. The future looks just as rosy, too. Like all design centres, Venom are constantly looking to the future to provide products that, as they say in their advert, are for 'the discerning rifleman'.

The new Venom HW85 featured this month says it all — style, quality, reliability and a product you can be proud of. It's a gun to be used, not admired and left on the wall — although no doubt many will! The HW85 is a result of a cross-section of skills and ideas that have stemmed from the field. 'Super', 'fantastic', 'sensational', 'the ultimate' are all words or phrases that have been used to describe new rifles and accessories to hit the airgun scene. There is no doubt that the Venom HW85 will have airgunners reaching for new superlatives.

We could say a lot about the rifle, but we think *Airgun World* readers know what we mean when we say that this, and all other Venom products, speak for themselves — tried, tested and approved.

Our sport is changing and growing even bigger. With this change has come a new generation of shooters who want and demand the best. Those dealers who can't meet this demand often fail. At Venom Arms the word 'failure' is reserved for the contents of the rubbish bin — not the gun racks.

Serious airgunners and novices of all ages will find the Venom Arms shop a centre where the emphasis is on helping you, the customer, to make the best possible choice. This service cost nothing and is free to all callers. From pellets to air rifle perfection you'll find it all — and lots more besides — at Unit 1.

Dave Pope (right) presenting the prizes at last year's Venom Challenge Trophy. Inset: Ivan Hancock outside Unit 1.



**AIRGUN
WORLD**

**PULL-OUT
The
New Venom
HW85**



AIRGUN WORLD

PULL-OUT The New Venom HW85



Venom Arms Company,
Unit 1 Gun Barrel,
Industrial Centre,
Hayseech, Warley,
West Midlands B64 7JZ
Tel: 021-501 3794

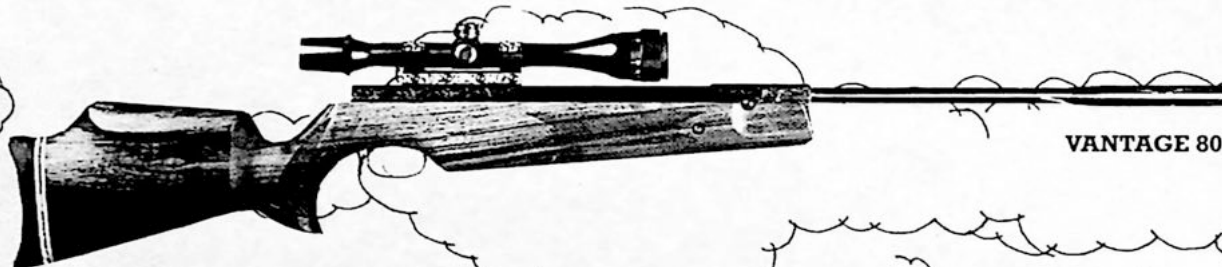
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ANY QUESTIONS

SUITABLE FOR HUNTING

At present I own one air rifle — a .22 Webley Vulcan — which I like very much. But now I am thinking of buying another rifle and have decided on a Weihrauch HW80, complete with scope, sling and silencer. Would you recommend this rifle for hunting?

Also, can you tell me how I can obtain an FAC?

David Ellis,
Rochdale, Lancs.

Application forms for Firearms Certificates are available from your local police station. You will need to satisfy them that you are a responsible person with a record of good conduct, also that you have suitable land over which to shoot and that you have made provision to store the weapon safely at your home.

Regarding your choice of combination, I am sure you will be delighted with the Weihrauch HW80, particularly if you opt for one of the tuned versions currently being offered.

The Gunmark range of British Sports Match mounts are unbeatable, as are the ranges of telescopic sights from Kassnar and Tasco. I use the Air Logic range of silencers and I think they are difficult to beat.

A NEW SPRING?

I've just bought a Webley Hawk Mk III 'as new' and although it is fairly accurate I feel it's a little short on power to use on rabbits.

Can I fit a Vulcan spring into the Hawk without impairing its accuracy, or should I start saving up for a Webley Omega rifle?

G. Holloway,
London E6.

My advice to you would be to fit the correct replacement spring into your Webley Hawk Mk III. It is unlikely that fitting a larger spring will develop more power and even if it does it may well be at the expense of accuracy and reliability.

As I see that you intend to shoot rabbits I wholeheartedly agree that you ought to start saving for an Omega.

LOW POWERED

My uncle has recently given me his Lincoln Super Comet air rifle. Could you tell me the Lincoln's muzzle velocity in .22 calibre and whether this rifle is suitable for killing rabbits and pigeon up to about 35 yards? Also, could I fit a more powerful spring to the rifle?

A. McGurrell,
South Shields, Tyne & Wear.

The Lincoln Super Comet which you own is a very low powered air rifle and I could not recommend its use for live quarry. Certainly the range you suggest of 35 yards would require an air weapon of very considerable power to be used.

It may be possible to fit a slightly larger spring to your air weapon, but I doubt very much if any increase in performance will result.

Send your airgun queries to:
JOHN STEVENS,
AIRGUN WORLD,
10 SHEET STREET,
WINDSOR,
BERKSHIRE SL4 1BG

John Stevens and Airgun World regret that it is not possible to answer every single question received. However, we shall publish answers or send personal replies to as many readers as we can, especially if you enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

TIGHT FIT

I recently purchased a Feinwerkbau Sport Mk III and, being a newcomer to the sport, I took my local gunshop's advice and bought Webley & Scott .22 pellets for the rifle.

On firing the rifle three times I became worried as the pellets were tight in the breech and I wasn't sure whether this would be detrimental to the gun or not. I read Tom Downes' article in the September issue of *Airgun World*, from which I assume that the reason for tightness is because the German barrel is 5.5 mm, whereas Webley & Scott pellets are 5.6 mm. I also assume from the article that this in no way should harm the gun, so long as the pellet is accepted into the breech.

Could you confirm that this is correct?

Stewart Johnston,
Dunoon, Argyll.

While I certainly could not recommend Webley & Scott .22 pellets as being ideally suited to your Feinwerkbau, you will find that the weapon will not be damaged in any way by their use so continue using them by all means.

You are correct in your assumptions as to why the pellets do not fit properly. My advice to you would be to choose a more suitable pellet from the RWS or H & N ranges.

COLLECTOR'S ITEM?

I own a Webley & Scott Hawk Mk II air rifle in .22 calibre. While reading *Airgun World* I have seen various prices asked for Mk III and other vintage air rifles of the same make, so I wonder if you could give me some idea of my Mk II air rifle's value. Also, what scope mounts should I use to fit the rail?

Y. Yehya,
Huddersfield, W. Yorks.

The Webley & Scott Hawk Mk II air rifle was introduced after the Webley Mk III underlever. The quality of the Hawk does not even approach that of the Mk III and is not really a particularly prized collectors' item.

If yours is in mint condition, with both interchangeable barrels, it would still be unlikely to fetch as much as a well used Vulcan.

Finally, you will find that Sports Match T03 mounts fit the rail.

VALUE FOR MONEY

I have just bought a .22 ASI Rangemaster air rifle, with scope, for £40 as new. As yet I have not tried it out, but do you think I have made a good buy?

T. Brooks,
Hull, North Humberside.

The ASI Rangemaster is manufactured in Spain by a company called El Gamo. Although weapons made by this company are normally fairly inexpensive, I have always found them to represent excellent value for money and provide reasonable performance, especially when their size, weight and price are taken into consideration.

Should you require any spares, they are available from ASI Ltd, Alliance House, Snape Maltings, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

UNDER £75

I own a .177 ASI Apache, but am now looking for a .22 air rifle under £75 to use for hunting on our farm as I don't think the Apache is powerful enough for clean kills. Could you recommend a suitable rifle, please?

William Humbert,
Shiplake College, Berks.

If I had £75 to spend on a sporting air rifle there would be several I would have to examine closely before making my final decision. I suggest that you check out the Weihrauch HW35, the Webley Vulcan, the Beeman CI carbine and the BSA Mercury. I strongly suspect that I would end up choosing the Webley Vulcan, but only after having saved up the extra few pounds for the tuned version.

TRIAL AND ERROR

I have recently purchased a .177 BSA Mercury 'S' air rifle. Bearing in mind that it will be used mainly for field target and target shooting, which pellet would you recommend?

D. Maule,
Somerton, Somerset.

Although it is only experimentation which will prove conclusively which pellet suits your weapon absolutely, I suggest you check out the Eley Wasp and H & N Silhouette pellets. Both of these should give good results.

VARYING VELOCITY

My father has recently bought a secondhand .177 Milbro G80 for me. Could you tell me the muzzle velocity of this rifle, please?

Mark Rule,
Redruth, Cornwall.

Because most air weapons vary from one example to another, it is difficult for me to tell you the muzzle velocity of your .177 Milbro G80 without having had the opportunity to chronograph it. What I can say is that most weapons of this type which we test in our shop seem to be around 650-700 fps in .177 calibre, provided they are in good working order.

AIR YOUR VIEWS



Belstaff

Letter Of The Month

Belstaff International have made quite a name for themselves in recent years with their tremendous range of outdoor clothing. The good news for *Airgun World* readers — or perhaps we should say writers — is that they will be awarding one of their superb waxproof coats every month to the letter which we decide is our *Letter Of The Month*. It may be amusing, thoughtful or informative — so get writing.

THE RIGHT TRACK

I read Tom Downes' article *Friend or Foe?* in the May issue with interest, and I can only agree with the author's view that the best way to settle any disagreement is by both sides sitting down around a table and discussing the matter. Using some form of hunting licence is one possible way of preventing cruelty to animals, although personally I do not think a licence would make the slightest bit of difference. I believe the hunter is not the problem, as he is competent enough to depatch his quarry cleanly and quickly without any chance of the animal suffering.

The type of person I consider most likely to inflict suffering on animals is the mindless idiot who spends his time taking pot-shots at animals for something to do. The only way that I can see of stopping the mindless idiot is to stop him from becoming one. To do this there will have to be more airgun clubs available for airgun owners to practise and where youngsters who are interested can be instructed how to shoot safely and accurately.

If you encourage the beginner to do something the right way, then he will continue to do it the right way. All we need is for local councils, or even local scout troops, to start up clubs and I think we will be on the right track.

John Bell,
London NW4

TAP LOADING IS BEST

I refer to John Hill's article *Airguns Down Under* in the June issue, where he says that a break barrel air rifle is better than a pump-up or tap loading air rifle for hunting. I quite agree that a break barrel air rifle is much easier to cock and uncock, but having used a BSA Meteor myself in the field I found that it made a rather loud 'crack' when I broke the barrel.

On the other hand, my BSA Airsporter 'S' can be cocked in absolute silence and I have no worries of spooking my quarry. The only problem I have found is that when uncocking a tap loading rifle, the pellet sometimes sticks in the tap and stops the air being released from the chamber.

F. Smith,
Trefriw, Gwynedd.

THE FACTS OF THE MATTER

I am writing to object to a statement made by Colin Hope in his article *Time to Act* in the June issue of *Airgun World*.

Mr Hope states that, 'In fact, the sawn-off shotgun is the weapon most used by bank and post office robbers'. This statement is not true.

The Home Office has issued statistics of robberies in which firearms were reported to have been used covering the years 1974-1984. The 1985 statistics are not yet available. These figures show that pistols were used almost twice as often as sawn-off and long-barrelled shotguns. There are no separate statistics available for bank and post office robberies.

Even in an article in defence of our sport Mr Hope repeated the lie invented by the news media. The media has repeated the lie often enough for it to be accepted as gospel, even by writers who should know better.

I feel that this correction is important, so that at least the people actively engaged in shooting sports know the truth.

Wayne Bates,
General Manager,
Browning Sports Ltd.

AIR CANE CONCERN

I am writing to express my concern at the direction our sport is taking. Laws have already been passed restricting the use of crossbows and longbows, and we have seen the incredibly biased reports on the Lee-Enfield conversion. Newspaper reports are just as bad and it is obvious that our sport is open to attack from all the anti-gun groups, from sensation-seeking media and from any MP who thinks he may get his name in lights by passing a new bill.

This all adds up to possible legislation. Unfortunately, good though airgun magazines are from our point of view, they can also supply ammunition for the 'antis' to use against us.

In view of this it would seem sensible to keep our image as good as possible and avoid adverse publicity. But instead we see pictures of people in terrorist outfits and great emphasis is placed on power and killing of animals. Recently we have also seen the advent of the air cartridge, with its firearm type rifles and pistols. This led to the Enfield conversion, which has already been used against us, and now we have the most lunatic development of all in the air cane.

This device is not a replica of the antique air cane. It is of no use for target shooting, it can't be used legitimately for sport and in fact it can only be described as a highly dangerous concealed weapon. As such, it should have no part in the airgun scene.

K. Chamberlain,
St Albans, Herts.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE EDITOR,
AIRGUN WORLD,
10 SHEET STREET,
WINDSOR,
BERKSHIRE SL4 1BG.

TAKE NOTE

In his reply to the question raised by Dennis Harlon of Clydebank, Dumbarton in the June issue, John Stevens states that he doubts very much whether using any pellet would push the power of the Webley Omega over the legal limit, and that supersonic velocities are very rarely experienced in air weapons.

As manufacturers and distributors of the only air rifle pellet made specifically for FAC rated air rifles, we feel we should clarify this matter to avoid any readers inadvertently transgressing the law regarding legal power output of air rifles.

Titan Black pellets are designed to obtain the maximum efficiency from all high



Titan Black
could
increase
power, claim
the makers.

performance air rifles and the perfect air seal produced by the low friction lubricated nylon skirt does, in fact, produce supersonic velocities in very high powered FAC rated air rifles — particularly in .177 calibre. Even when used in air rifles within the British legal limit of 12 ft lbs using conventional lead ammunition, Titan Black does increase the energy output considerably — with some models by as much as 1½-2 ft lbs. It is for this reason that all our advertisements warn prospective users of this ammunition of this property of Titan Black.

John Knibbs,
Titan Airgun Products,
Birmingham.

ACT NOW

The prevailing attitude towards air rifles and their owners needs urgent action by responsible airgunners. I have joined the BASC and have also written to my MP, but this by itself is not enough. I would like to make some suggestions which I think should be followed every time an episode of airgun misuse occurs.

First, write to the media concerned deploring the incident, pointing out the number of responsible airgunners and clubs which teach rules of safety and discipline.

Compare the number of incidents with the total number of air weapons now in use and state that licensing would be impractical.

Quote the Firearms Act of 1968, which has not prevented criminals using illegally obtained shotguns. After all, we don't ban cars or motor cycles because of drunken drivers. We must unite to counter the ignorance, sensationalism and hysteria prevalent in the general public and fed by the media.

P. O'Dowda,
Lyndhurst, Hants.

After using the Airgun Centre's Zephyr 77 air rifle over the past few weeks, I must say that it is the finest air weapon I have come across in the last 20 years. Its accuracy and shot-to-shot consistency exceed that obtainable with the very best match air weapons. The Zephyr 77 is not just another tuned custom special — indeed, to compare it with those already available would be an injustice. It is quite simply, the best.

SERVICE FROM SURREY!

Alfred Wills,
Truro, Cornwall.

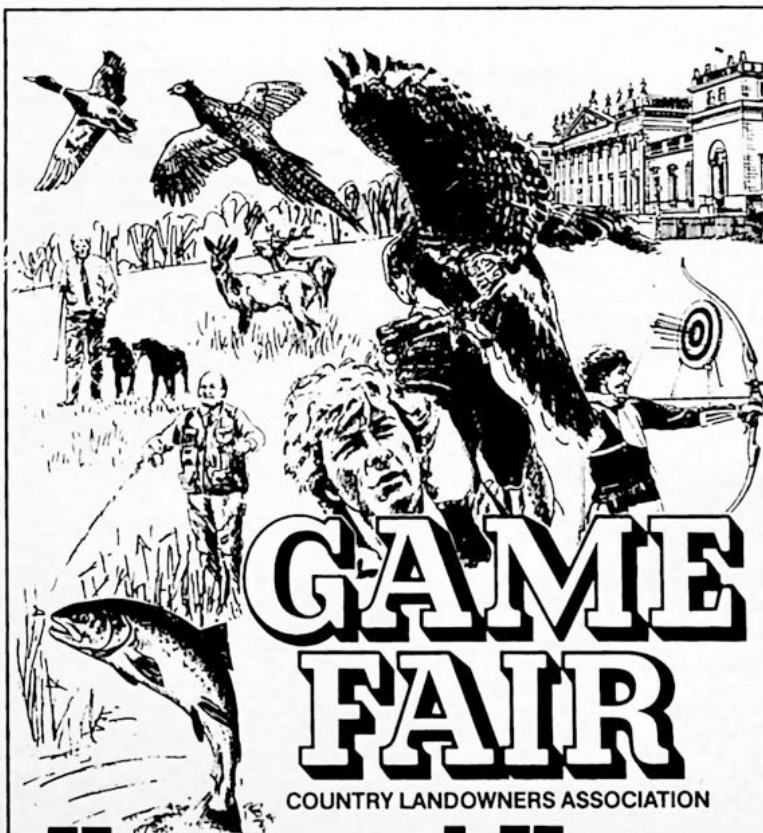
TELLY NOT JELLY!

Regarding P. Taylor's letter on the 'Jelly' air rifle in the June issue, might I suggest that the inscription is in fact 'Telly'. These rifles were produced by FEG of Budapest who made about 11 different models, and from the dimensions quoted it would seem to be the Model LP25 or, as it was known in the UK, the Telly 200.

CLARIFICATION

In the circumstances of the case reported the police were quite correct in saying that the accused's sound moderator needed to be on an FAC. The penultimate paragraph of the item could perhaps be misconstrued by readers.

Nigel Brown,
The Gun Trade Association,
Timsbury, Hants.



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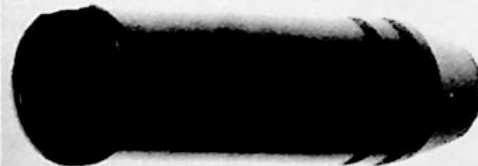
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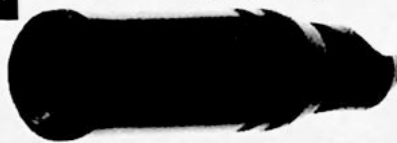
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STRIPPED FOR ACTION

by Paul Hanson

YOU MAY HAVE been wondering why some of the popular German rifles in the Weihrauch, Original and Feinwerkbau ranges have not been dealt with in this series on airgun maintenance, but the answer is very simple. All of these rifles require the use of a spring compressor of some sort to strip and re-assemble them safely and easily, while other air weapons already discussed in this series can be maintained easily using the minimum of special tools.

Our family has in fact several very efficient spring compressors, specially engineered and designed to cater for all types of air rifles from the Feinwerkbau Sport to the BSA Airsporter and Challenger. The latter two are probably the most difficult to re-assemble, particularly if you intend to fit a Titan or other specialist mainspring.

I have never previously given details of any of the Hanson spring compressing machinery. This is not because they are difficult to operate or impractical to use, because in both instances all of our compressors are simplicity itself. All, however, suffer from the same fault — none was ever produced commercially. All are beautifully engineered, but they would cost a second mortgage on your house to put on the market.

For this reason I have avoided including any of the high performance air rifles in this series until I could find a spring compressor which not only worked safely and well, but was also within a price range that most DIY airgunners could afford.

Recently, though, my prayers were answered. Earlier, while looking through the pages of *Airgun World*, I saw that Manchester Airguns were offering a spring compressor for the incredibly cheap price of £25. It couldn't be much use for that cheap

5. THE WEIHRACH HW77

price, I thought, remembering that my early prototypes worked out at over twice that sum to produce, let alone sell at a profit. However, I rather sceptically sent off my order and cheque, and waited eagerly for delivery of the new piece of equipment to our workshop.

I must admit that my scepticism regarding the practicality of the device was quite unnecessary, as the North of England airgun wizards had at last produced a spring compressor which not only worked perfectly, but also catered for most makes of air rifle — except the BSA Airsporter/Mercury/Challenger range. I am pleased to report that Alan Hamer of Manchester Airguns is now working on this minor deficiency in his new compressor and suitable modifications should be announced shortly.

The MAG spring compressor is very strongly made and is simplicity itself to use. It came to me with a set of stabilisers so that it could be fitted to a work bench, a complete sheet of very detailed instructions and all the necessary adaptors and sleeves to cater for a full range of weapons.

I decided to try out the new compressor by stripping and rebuilding a Weihrauch HW77 rifle, kindly loaned to me by Abbey Guns of Kenilworth in Warwickshire.

The HW77 is a very well made,

heavyweight rifle which, with the exception of the spring compressor, requires the minimum of tools to service.

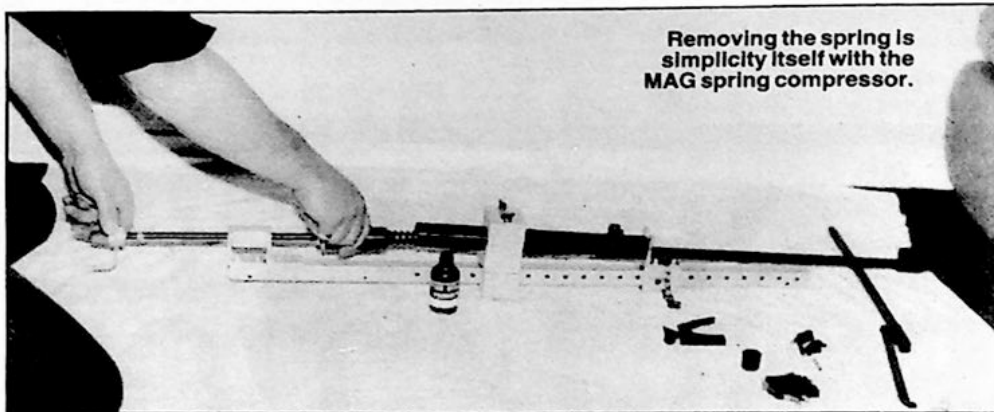
Having checked that the rifle is unloaded and uncocked, remove the two front stock fixing screws and the lock washers using a 1/4 inch screwdriver. Now take out the front trigger guard screw so you can remove the stock completely.

Tap out the two transverse pins in the trigger block and you will find it possible to disconnect the complete trigger assembly from the air cylinder. Unless the rifle will not cock or part of the trigger mechanism is broken, I do not advise that you attempt to dismantle this trigger assembly. It is always best to leave such specialised work to the experts.

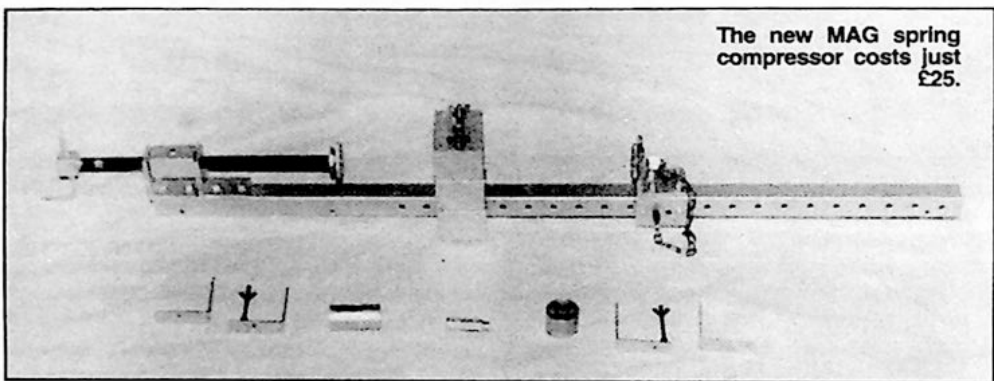
You can now remove the safety catch bar and spring. With the particular rifle that I was servicing, I had to remove the foresight and cocking lever catch block assembly from the end of the barrel as the owner wanted a silencer fitted. This component is fixed in place at the factory using some type of epoxy resin adhesive. I found it required a very gentle heat from a gas blow torch to soften the adhesive before the foresight unit could be carefully tapped off the barrel

continued on page 52

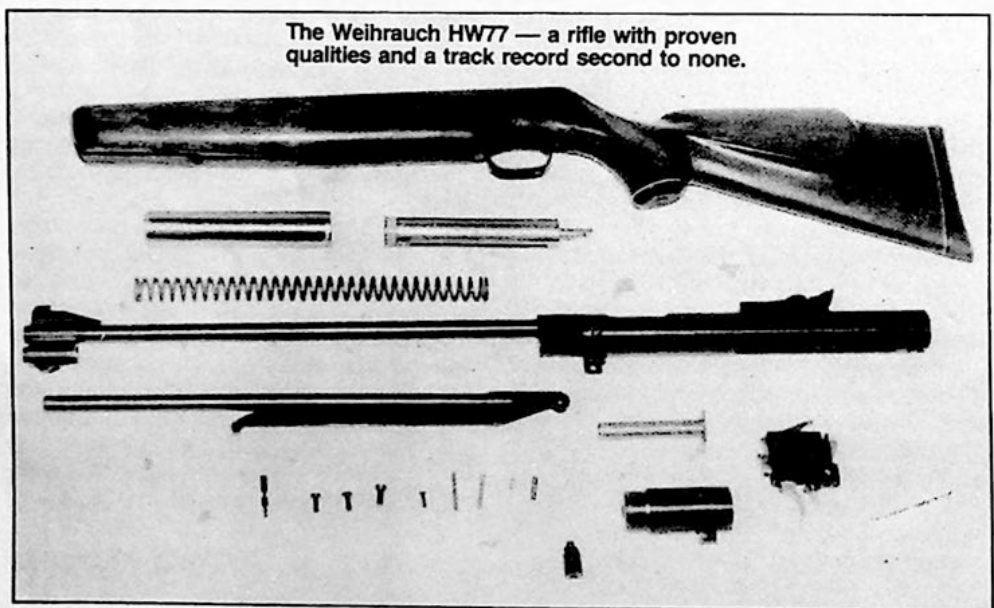
With the help of a spring compressor, the Weihrauch HW77 is a very easy gun to strip.



Removing the spring is simplicity itself with the MAG spring compressor.



The new MAG spring compressor costs just £25.



The Weihrach HW77 — a rifle with proven qualities and a track record second to none.

using a rawhide mallet. I must stress that the application of heat should be very gently and carefully controlled to avoid distortion of the barrel.

The rearsight is very easily removed by slackening off the horizontal locking screw and sliding it off the cylinder dovetail. If you intend to use a telescopic sight on your rifle, make sure you place the rearsight assembly somewhere safe where it can easily be found if you need to revert to open sights.

If, however, you intend to fit a suitable silencer — as I wished to do in this instance — you will have to remove the pressed up locating lug on the top of the barrel very carefully, as this ensures correct alignment of the foresight assembly. I used a very fine engineer's file for this, finishing off with very fine emery paper on a block of soft wood or cork.

The removal of this lug is essential for the correct fitting of the silencer, which can now be pushed sufficiently down the barrel until the underneath cocking lever catch block is in the correct position to lock the cocking lever securely. The silencer can now be locked into position using the grub screw provided.

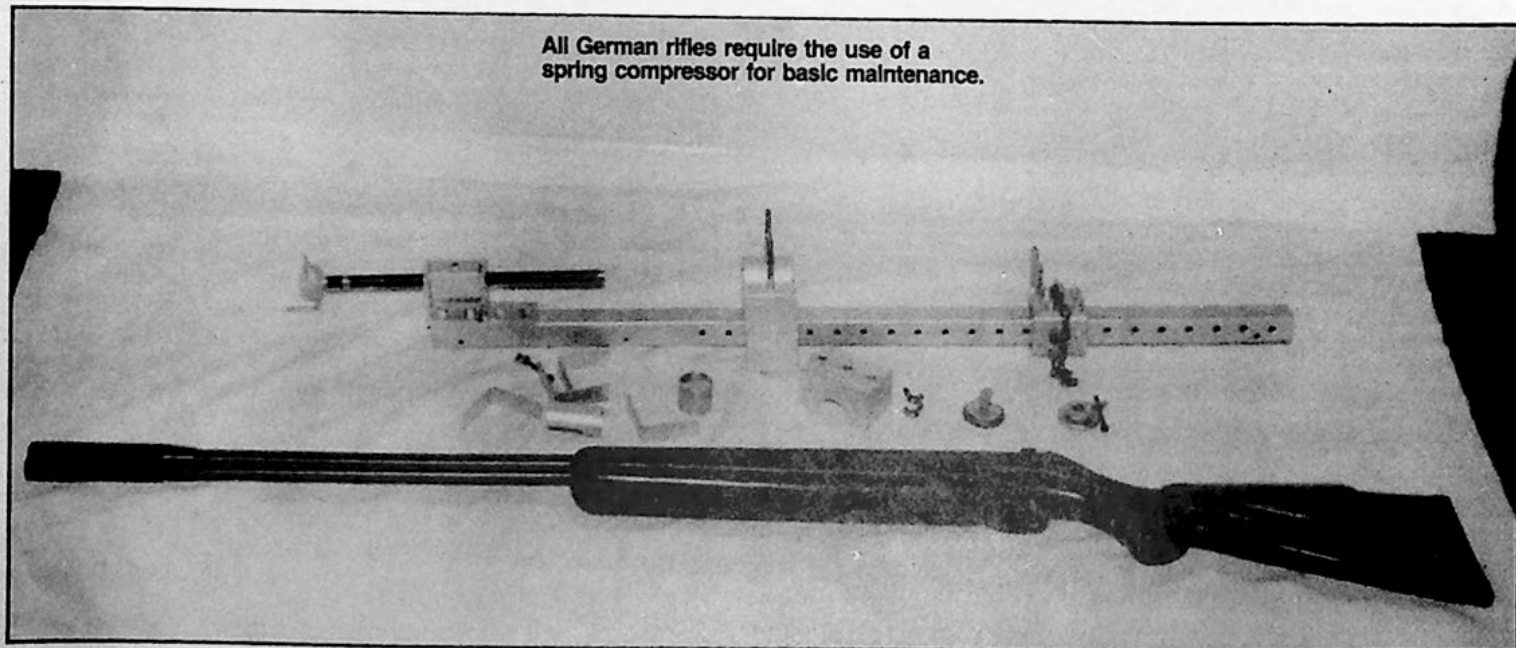
To remove the cocking lever assembly, which comprises a hand lever and auxiliary link, tap out the cocking lever fixing pin. The lever will now drop down and you will find it possible to pull the auxiliary lever to the front of the cocking slot, where it can be withdrawn easily from the piston body.

Now is the time to use the newly acquired spring compressor. Before you attempt to use it, though, you must read the detailed instructions until you thoroughly understand the workings of the apparatus.

Fit the barrel and cylinder assembly of the rifle into the spring compressor as directed, making sure you protect the blued metalwork of the rifle where it contacts any part of the compressor. Use soft, thin cloth or blotting paper for this.

Turn the long screw of the compressor finger tight so that slight pressure is on the trigger block. Now unscrew the cylindrical trigger block locking plug and place it carefully to one side. The trigger block can now be unscrewed from the cylinder.

If the block is screwed up very tightly, I



All German rifles require the use of a spring compressor for basic maintenance.

suggest that you fit a suitably sized piece of hardwood in the trigger/sear slot and give it a sharp tap with a rawhide mallet to unlock the threads. You may find it easier to remove the rifle from the spring compressor to carry out this operation.

With the rifle fixed firmly in the compressor, the long compression screw can be slowly unscrewed at the same time as the trigger block itself is being unscrewed. Once the threads of the block are clear of the cylinder, exercise great caution as you unwind the long compression screw further as the mainspring is still under very great tension. With the long compression screw fully unwound, you can now remove the trigger block completely.

Remove the rifle from the compressor and lift out the spring guide, followed by the mainspring. Using a small screwdriver, draw out the piston assembly from the cylinder.

Examine the breech seal washer in its recess in the front of the larger outer piston and replace it with a new one. The inner compression piston can easily be withdrawn from the outer piston. Examine the nylon sealing washer for damage or signs of dieselling, indicated by black deposits on the feather edge of the washer. As always, I recommend that you renew this piston washer having taken the trouble to strip the rifle this far. The old washer can be levered off from the fixing stud on the front of the piston with the 1/4 inch screwdriver.

Thoroughly clean both pistons and the inside of the air cylinder with a clean, soft cloth to remove all dirt, old oil and grease. Fit a new washer in position and apply a

minimum of dry lubricant in the form of powdered molybdenum disulphide, Dri-Slide or a similar product. Do not over grease or oil the piston washer or piston as this will impede the smooth action of the piston and give much reduced power.

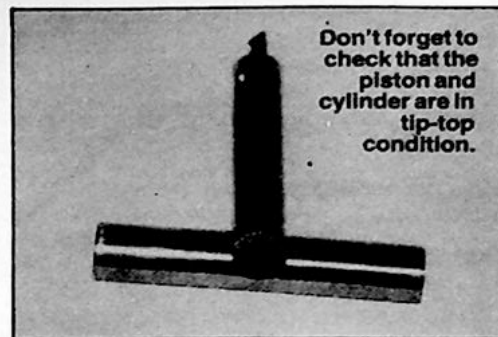
Before fitting the assembly back into the cylinder, you can test its efficiency by placing your finger over the barrel seal in the transfer port and pressing the air piston into its outer sleeve. If all is well, you should feel the air compressing as the piston is pushed home.

Before assembly, lightly grease the outside of the outer piston and slide the components into the air cylinder. Insert your lightly greased replacement mainspring and spring guide.

Now fix the rifle firmly in the spring compressor and, following the detailed assembly instructions, place the trigger block on the spring guide. Ensuring that all the components are correctly aligned, slowly wind the long compression screw until the threaded portion of the trigger block is about to enter the rear of the air cylinder.

Apply a few drops of light oil to the block threads and screw in the trigger block at the same time as you wind in the long compression screw. You will only need to use hand pressure to screw in the trigger block, but you may have to resort to the hardwood bar and rawhide mallet in order to align the trigger/sear slot with the cocking lever slot.

Refit the safety catch with its spring and, applying a little light oil to the moving parts of the trigger assembly, refit using the two fixing pins. Correctly position the auxiliary loading lever in the air piston and apply a



little moly slip grease to the contact points. Refit the cocking lever, drive home the axis pin and screw in the trigger block fixing plug.

The refurbished rifle can now be refitted to its stock and, after an all-over wipe with a lightly oiled cloth, the rifle is ready to test.

Whatever type of pellets you use you must be sure to seat them as far into the breech as possible using your thumb nail. Badly aligned pellet seating is one of the main causes of inaccuracy in the HW77 rifle. Expert customisers, such as Venom, cut away the side of the breech to make pellet seating more positive. Fire two or three pellets into the ground or at your back stop to clear any residual grease or oil, then zero your rifle using your chosen pellets at your usual hunting range.

Time spent on maintenance of your HW77 will be well repaid by a very noticeable increase in performance in the field.

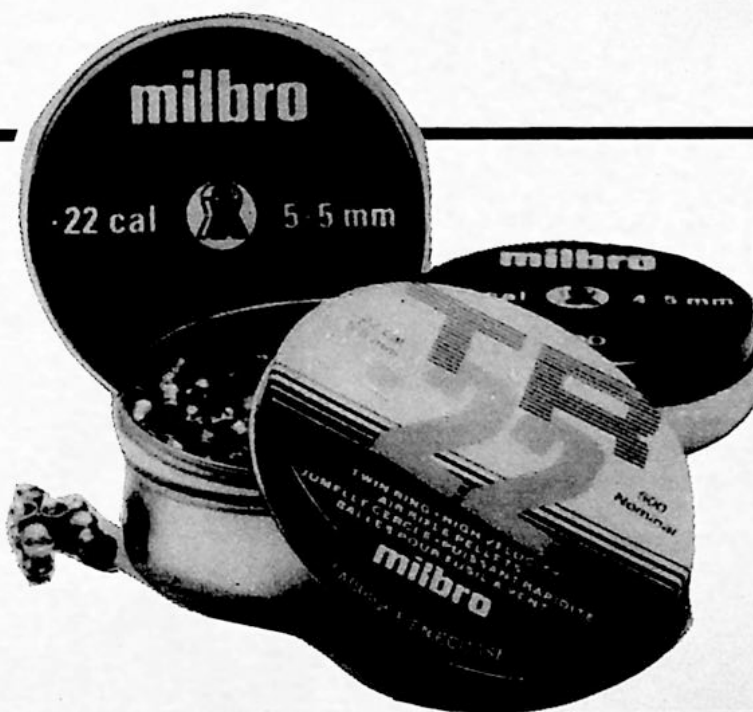
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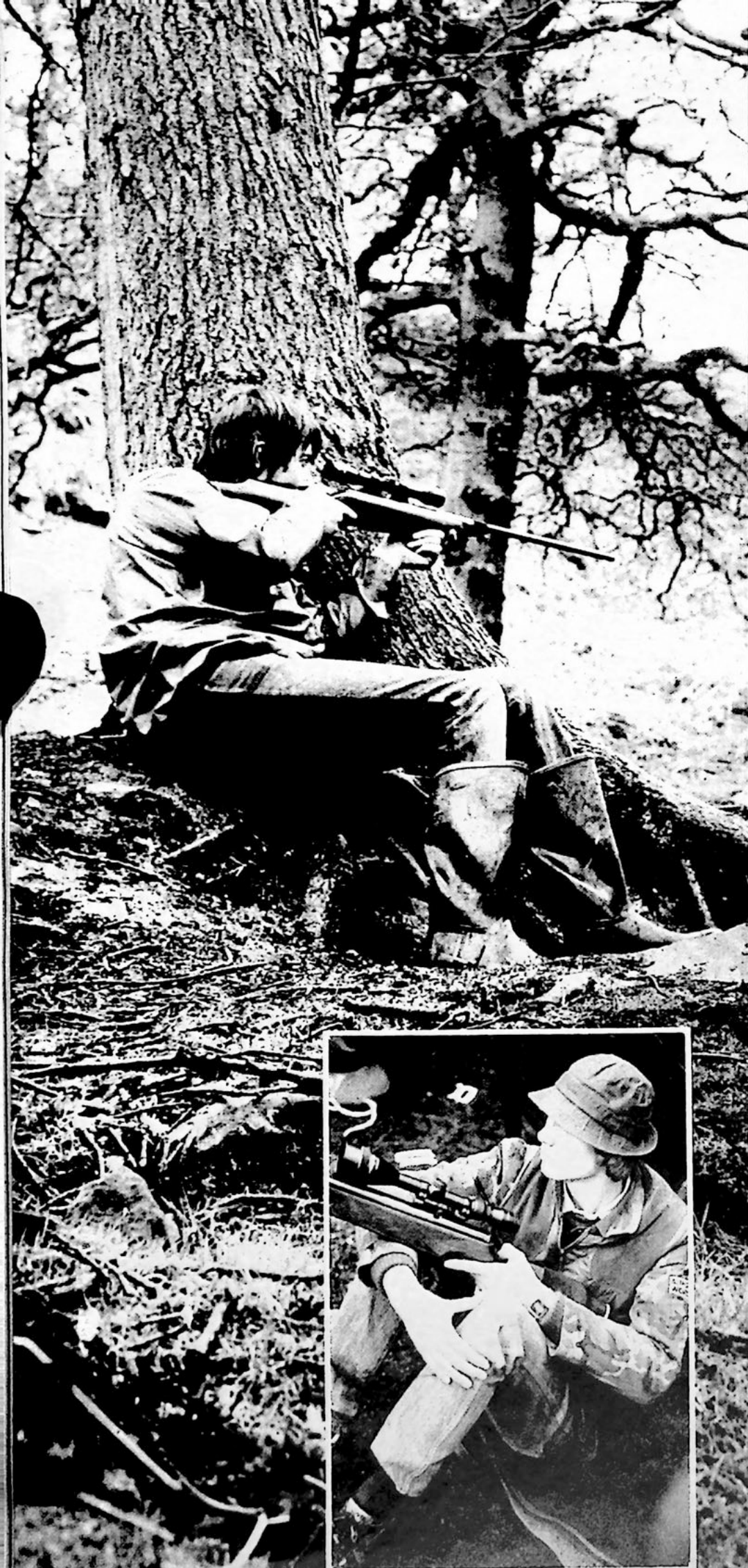
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MOST NEW YEAR resolutions are short lived. A half-hearted attempt to give up smoking usually fails before the day is out, while diets and keep-fit exercises last only until you realise that there is still some of last week's Christmas turkey to be eaten!

I'm pleased to be able to say that there is one of my New Year resolutions that is still intact, however, although it was a fairly unambitious one to begin with. Simply put, I resolved to use my diary more in 1986.

That probably doesn't sound like much of a resolution to you, but for me it represents something of an achievement. In previous years I have tried — and usually failed — to remember all my appointments and relatives' birthdays in my head. This approach is doomed to failure and last year, when I managed to forget so many people's birthdays, several of my family ganged up on me and 'forgot' mine as a punishment!

I was determined to prevent this from recurring this year so I invested in the *Eley Shooter's Pocket Diary*, which has the extra benefit of being crammed full of useful information for the shotgunner and airgunner alike. My only criticism of it is that it is small, which means that occasionally I only have enough space to write initials of the person whose birthday is on that day.

Recently I glanced at the month ahead in my diary, looking for advanced warning of any impending events for which presents and cards were required. Strangely enough there were none and the only date with any note against it was the forthcoming Saturday, which had 'F.T.R.O.' pencilled in underneath. This was puzzling as I don't know anyone with those initials. I did vaguely remember writing them, though, and I seemed to remember that they stood for something important.

If you have ever been asked a question to which you know the answer, but for some reason are unable to remember, then you will understand why I became annoyed by these four letters. Try as I might, there was no way that I could recall what they stood for. The last time a similar situation occurred was when someone asked me to name the seven dwarves in Walt Disney's *Snow White*. I remembered five — Happy, Grumpy, Sleepy, Sneezy and Dopey — but it took seven hours of mental torture before someone told me the other two and put me out of my misery.

But back to my diary. Persistence brought results when I realised that 'F.T.R.O.' was short for 'Field Target Rifle Overhaul', which I had decided should be done that weekend in preparation for the field target season.

Many shooters that I have heard chatting at some of this year's competitions have

Left: Field target shooting is a fast growing sport — and you need a gun in top working order. Inset: Massive light gathering lenses are not essential.

Jonathan Wilkes stresses the importance of preparing for field target shooting

Ready

complained that their guns were not performing as well as they thought they should. Usually it was something that could be fixed easily, such as incorrect zero or a tired spring, but one poor chap seemed to have just about everything possible go wrong with his gun. This included scope mounts that wouldn't stay in place and a loose breech pin that caused his barrel to jiggle from side to side when in the locked up position!

I don't think I made myself too popular with him when I pointed out that most, if not all, of the faults that plagued his equipment were really his own fault because he had not prepared it properly beforehand. And yet he was far from being alone in suffering from these unnecessary problems. Many airgunners fail to take even the most basic measures to ensure that their equipment works well on the day of the shoot. That is why I always make a point of giving my rifle a thorough going-over each spring to give myself the best possible chance.

Incidentally, the following points are as applicable to a regular field target shooter as they are to a complete novice. Even if you have never shot in a competition before, you will still need to prepare yourself and your rifle for the big day. If you do it properly you may place higher than you think and, who knows, you might even win a prize!

So what should you do with your gun? Undoubtedly the watchwords are reliability and consistency. Without these there is no way that you will be able to maintain any sort of form through the season, although you may put in the occasional good score when everything goes well for you.

First, your rifle. Before doing anything drastic such as stripping it totally to pieces, give your rifle a thorough inspection. Is the stock cracked or chipped? Are there any specks of rust? In what state is the breech washer? Also, inspect the state of the rifling and cock the action to see what it feels like. It should be smooth and progressive with no twanging or cracking noises. If there are it could indicate that the spring is broken. Likewise, there must be no grinding noises which could show that sand or grit had found its way inside.

Now test fire the gun. You should not see any traces of dieselling, unless the weapon was last lubricated with mineral oil or it has been left standing for some time and the oil has accumulated in the cylinder. If this is the case it will disappear after a few dozen shots.

Once it has stopped, fire several test groups from varying ranges. The amount the group drops at longer ranges will give an indication of the rifle's power. Better still, take the rifle to the nearest gunsmith who has a chronograph and have the muzzle velocity checked accurately. Any sign of weakness, such as low muzzle velocity, or



Top shooter Richard North ensures that gun, scope and ammunition are always up to the mark.

large differences between shots — identifiable as vertical stringing on the target — will mean that the spring is due for renewal. If there is any doubt then renew it anyway. It's better to do it early rather than halfway through the year when you may not only be without your gun for a week or more, but you will also have to become familiar with the pellets travelling on a whole new trajectory. This will also mean re-zeroing the scope and different amounts of holdover at all ranges.

Whether you replace the spring yourself or have it done professionally don't forget to change the piston washer at the same time. You could also give some thought to having the rifle tuned or customised — depending upon how much money you have to spend!

If the breech washer looks in good condition, leave it alone. As I said before, though, if you have any doubts, change it anyway. They only cost a few pence and really aren't worth any trouble they might cause.

Talking of the breech washer leads us onto the barrel. I only ever clean my barrel once a year. Generally, airgun barrels are best left untouched as they are more accurate that way. Lead deposits can build up, though, and a yearly scrub with a phosphor bronze mop is all that is necessary to remove it.

Having done this, give it a light oil and immediately shoot about 100 of your usual brand of pellets without attempting to zero the sights. I've found that 100 or so pellets are needed to let the residual lead deposits build up to their usual level again. This must happen before its consistency returns and with it, the accuracy.

Stick to one brand of pellets throughout the year and, preferably, the same batch. Experiment by all means but settle on one make and then buy 2,000-3,000 of them from the shop where you bought the last tin. This will minimise the chance of varying weights and diameters.

If your sights were good enough for competitions last year then they will probably be good enough for this year. Many people waste an awful lot of money buying the very latest sight from the leading Japanese — or, if they are really rich,

German — manufacturer, believing that their scores will magically improve. They will not. Almost any telescopic sight of reasonable quality will suffice and those with light-gathering objective lenses the size of dustbin lids are not necessities.

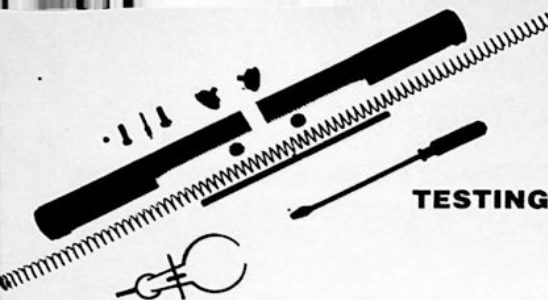
Open sights will leave you at a disadvantage, though, especially on those shoots with realistic settings for the targets where the kill area is almost indistinguishable from the surrounding undergrowth. Pay close attention to the mounts as well, because these are often a source of trouble that lies undetected for weeks while you blame yourself for a loss of form.

I have not attempted to make this article an exhaustive checklist of things that you must and must not do with your rifle for several reasons. Just one of these is that everyone has a different rifle which requires different preparations. Try changing the spring in a Theoben Sirocco for example — or rather, don't! What is important is that you adopt the philosophy of making sure that everything is in the best possible condition before you start, and then practise like mad at every available opportunity. That way you stand the best possible chance of completing the season without needing to strip your gun for something that you knew months before would need to be done.

Finally, a thought for transporting your rifle from home to the competition and back again. Provided that you use good quality sight mounts that are firmly mounted in the dovetails, there is no reason for the sight to have lost zero from the last time that you used it — unless it has received a knock, of course.

To guard against this, consider buying a hard case with a foam lining, instead of the more common padded foam gunslip which is not as protective. This has the added advantage of providing space to carry a toolkit for your rifle, consisting of screwdrivers and Allen keys. Then you could get into the habit of checking the tightness of every screw and bolt before and after shooting the rifle.

Oh yes, and the names of the other two dwarves? Bashful and Doc, of course!



Wally Pope invites you to 'come on down' and try some

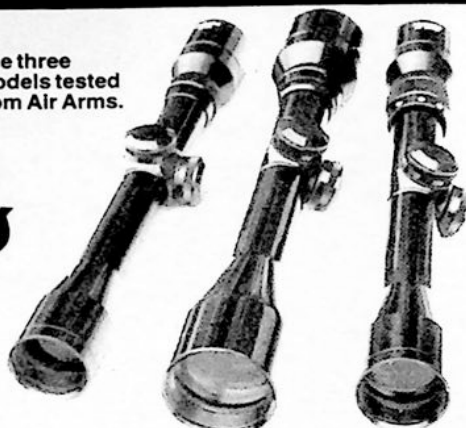
The Price Is Right!

I LEAPT AT THE CHANCE recently for a 'sneak preview' test of some new scopes from Air Arms. They will be marketed in addition to the established Air Arms range — and after my preview I must say that I can't wait to get these new scopes on sale in our shop. They are excellent value for money, offering good quality at a price that doesn't force you to a second mortgage!

I tested three models — a 4 x 32, a 4 x 40 and a 3-9 x 32. All have one inch tubes and are finished with an excellent deep black gloss coating. The eyepiece has a rubber protective ring, which is a nice feature — although you should never make eye contact with your scope, of course.

The turrets are fitted with screw-on caps

The three models tested from Air Arms.



Air Arms' Bill Sanders is offering quality at a fair price with his new range of scopes.

that are large in diameter and have threads a little coarser than some you come across, making it virtually impossible to cross-thread them. The turrets have a screw slot, but I found firm thumb pressure adequate for the job.

The dials are calibrated from 1 to 60, which makes it easy to return to previous zero settings. The clicking mechanism is so precise and positive that there is no chance of inadvertently shifting the zero when putting your rifle into or out of a sleeve, even without the caps fitted.

The lenses are made by one of the world's leading optical manufacturers — a household name in fact — and they are excellently coated to give optimum clarity

and light gathering properties. I used the scopes on the surrounding fields and hedges at dusk, and had no trouble distinguishing clumps of grass and clods of earth from live quarry.

Clarity carried right across the entire field of view, and an unimpaired picture of the target was something that I relished even on the maximum 9x magnification. The depth of focus was also outstanding at eight yards to infinity. I have an expensive, good pair of binoculars that can't boast the same flexibility.

There was a very slight parallax apparent on all these scopes at normal air rifle ranges, which indicated to me that they had perhaps been set up for rimfire or centrefire

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use. All future consignments will be set at 30 metres, however, so this minor snag will not affect production models. There is no parallax adjusting version at present — but who knows about the future?

Reticules are the popular 30/30 type — broad black bars with finer cross-hairs at their intersection. The view is perfectly round, compared with the 'TV screen' of many makes, and I rate this as a good feature because it maximises light gathering potential while leaving the field of view unrestricted.

I'd like to look at the question of parallax a little more, because it seems to me that it is widely misunderstood. Parallax refers to the apparent movement of the target when viewed other than precisely through the exact lens axis, or if the scope lenses are not set up for the precise distance of the target.

When hunting you sometimes need a rapid shot, without the time to get your head position absolutely 'right' behind the scope, and that is why it is best to have parallax free sights. I had no problems during my test, however, because I was shooting precise cards from a steady position. The small degree of parallax with which I had to contend did not affect shot-to-shot accuracy at all at ranges from 25 to 43 yards.

So for all purposes other than really

hurried shots — and even then a well set-up rifle and scope will help eliminate any problem — I would be more than happy to use these scopes just as they are now.

I have often noticed, incidentally, that using a paper target will highlight any shortfall in a scope. I was using a Webley Omega carbine in .177 calibre, with the new Tasco World Class steel mount, to test these scopes and, parallax or not, I was producing half inch ten shot groups at 25 yards. I doubt that this performance would have been bettered by a parallax adjustable scope.

Just for fun I also fired some groups using 9x magnification at 43 yards — which is the most I can manage in my garden! I was not too disappointed with 1 3/4 inch ten shot groups. I used RWS Superdome pellets for most of these tests, by the way.

To carry the tests a stage further I placed three shots on the target at 3x magnification, three at 4x, three at 5x and three at 6x, all at 25 yards. Every pellet stayed within the same group, with no change in the point of impact. This is a good test — and I can assure you that it is one which many variable scopes fail. I could not test the stronger magnifications at this range because the focus started to disappear, which is why I moved to 43 yards.

The scopes are shockproof, waterproof

and fogproof. Wide angle variations will be available in due course, although I found the present field of view quite adequate. At 40 yards the field of view was 12 feet for the 4 x 32 and 14 feet for the 4 x 40. That is comparable to other good quality scopes on the market.

Solid lens covers are provided, but I never shoot through the transparent type anyway, so I did not consider this a disadvantage. Only time will tell how these scopes stand up to rough treatment, but they are covered by a good warranty, in any case, and I have no reason to think they will be anything less than fully satisfactory.

And now for the real benefit of these scopes — they will be available at a very competitive price indeed. The 4 x 32, for example, will cost just £27, and the others are priced in proportion — with even the variable at under £40. That is value for money in no uncertain terms.

I have looked at several makes of scope over the years, trying to find one to back our main 'front runner' at the shop. I have found them all lacking — until now, that is. These new Air Arms sights offer quality at a fair price and I can thoroughly recommend them to any air rifle shooters whose pockets won't stretch to more famous makes.

These scopes are sure to be real winners.



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HUNTING

THE WIND blew softly, gently stirring the surrounding leaves and swaying the tips of a nearby pine, while around my feet the grass whispered conspiratorially.

Ahead, partially hidden by a clump of grass, was a rabbit and with heart pounding I slowly took another step. The world around had contracted while I concentrated on that single rabbit and the 40 yards of open ground which separated us. Ten yards more and I would be able to take a shot, but each yard seemed like a mile of tension and suppressed excitement.

The veneer of civilisation was wearing thin, eroded by my hunting instinct — an unstoppable primitive drive which is, to a greater or lesser degree, in us all. It is this drive which makes a man successful in business, the footballer strive to score a goal or a man climb a mountain. The real challenge is in how you get there, and the more difficult it is the greater the sense of achievement and feeling of success. The end result, whether it is reaching the top of a mountain or killing a rabbit after a highly testing stalk, is usually only half the story.

The two stages — the final result and the method used to reach it — are inseparable.

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says Marc Jobling

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One without the other is not really enough, otherwise I might as well buy my rabbit from a butcher's shop and the mountain climber take a helicopter to the top.

This is why a superb stalk, with a fine result, always sticks in my mind no matter how many mediocre ones follow. There are very few stalking situations which I will forget totally — although there are plenty that I would like to! — but it is the really tough, and of course successful, ones that immediately spring to mind during moments of reflection.

The situation I mentioned at the beginning of the article occurred recently on the farm, and although it was not a classic it did result in a cleanly despatched rabbit after a careful 20 minutes of manoeuvring. Those final ten yards were the worst, but the feeling of satisfaction was immense when the animal keeled over.

After paunching my prey I lay back in the grass and relaxed, enjoying the warm sunshine. It was a moment to savour and to admire the kill, reliving details of the final moments of the hunt. As I lay there I allowed my mind to wander, idly remembering the finer details of other memorable field shooting forays.

One in particular, which always remains clear in my mind, took place quite a few years ago when I was staying with some friends in Sussex. It was a protracted stalk along one of the many dykes which divided the fields on the farm and involved a pigeon.

I first noticed the bird as it fed in a field of stubble about 30 yards from the reed-fringed dyke and from a distance of over 300 yards I began an approach, realising that it was a stalking proposition.

The initial 100 yards was fairly easy, made so by a well positioned hedge which I used to the full until the beginning of the dyke was reached. But here the problems



After paunching the rabbit I lay back on the grass and relaxed.

started. The dyke itself was filled with water and choked with vegetation, none of which, except for the reeds, rose above the steep banks. On either side were bare fields, one of course containing the pigeon, and whatever the angle of my approach it would have to be accomplished from a prone position.

Hugging the edge of the field and keeping my rifle as far off the ground as possible, I slowly wormed my way along using what little cover the fringe of reeds provided, wincing with pain as sun dried clods of earth dug into my body.

For nearly half an hour I kept it up until I felt that I must be nearing the point where the pigeon would be opposite and I decided to risk a look. From my grovelling, sweaty position I slowly inched upright, tensed, with pulse racing and then nearly died of shock as a blackbird rocketed from inside the dyke, barely feet away, shrieking hysterically.

I gave myself a minute to recover, swearing profusely under my breath, before I risked another look. Amazingly the pigeon was still there and by sheer luck I had stopped directly opposite, so that all that remained was to bring the rifle to bear. After a short wait for a better angle I fired, killing the bird instantly — and I am sure you can imagine my feelings at the result.

I often wonder whether I have spent more time stalking or lying in wait for my prey. In

retrospect I would say that the amount was about equal, perhaps with a slight bias in favour of the latter. Hunting is often so unpredictable that what started off as a stalk might end up with a long wait or vice versa.

Patience in the field is paramount and if you have little of it you are not likely to be very successful. You must be prepared to wait for long periods of time, often in uncomfortable positions or surroundings. Luck plays its part but do not rely on it — there is no substitute for skill and patience.

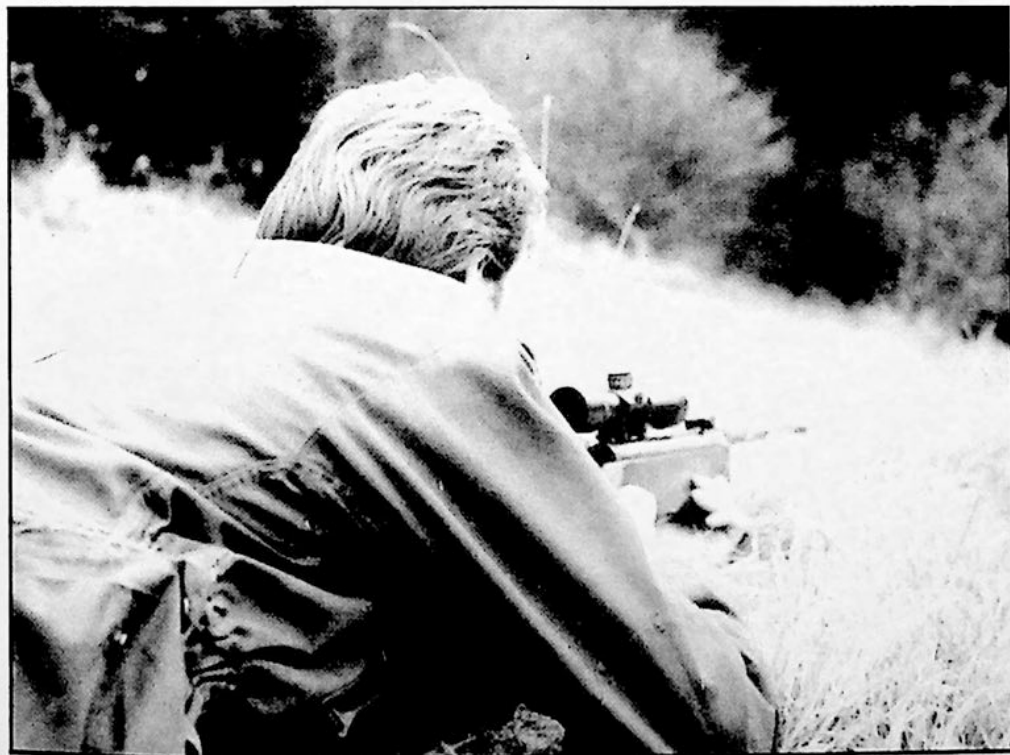
Correct clothing is obviously important, but in the end it is usually a careless move which has let me down, especially while waiting in ambush. The advantage of soft camouflage clothing is, of course, that it makes it harder for the creature to pinpoint you if you do inadvertently move. Occasionally I have picked a barren spot in a field opposite the edge of woodland and, lying in full view, waited for rabbits to appear. So long as I remained absolutely motionless, with the rifle lying in a position which allowed the minimum of movement to centre it, a rabbit would invariably show itself. Awareness of wind direction can also have a bearing on the outcome.

Now to change the subject. Are people who are loners by nature more likely to make better hunters? Certainly friends of mine who spend most of their time prowling the woods and fields with a rifle tend to be so. They are not necessarily anti-social, but just prefer the company of a few and enjoy the peace and solitude of the countryside.

Of the many people — both male and female — I have taken shooting, it is the quiet, thoughtful characters with a dislike of crowds who generally fit in and are automatically in-tune with their surroundings. The loud, sociable types are often uncomfortable, inclined to become bored and at times patently ill at ease.

When it is important to remain motionless I am often aware of an increasing amount of fidgeting occurring, which is naturally very irritating. If nothing else, it has taught me to recognise the sort of person who will appreciate a day's shooting and will find the whole aspect educational and exciting. Obviously these are only vague conclusions and no hard and fast rules can be drawn from them, but in general there does seem to be a difference.

Either way, I have spent happy hours lying in sunny fields, surrounded by the sweet scents of summer, musing over such subjects. In the end it is probably quite irrelevant, but they do provide interesting mental fodder.



Hugging the edge of the field I slowly wormed my way along.

Just for junior!

Bob Costin continues his series on a youngster taking up shooting

Pheon still finds the Air Wolf easy to cock.

LAST MONTH I described the events leading up to Pheon's first air rifle. Once he had become familiar with his Webley Air Wolf and has settled into more natural and easy shooting positions, I noticed that some modifications had to be carried out to the rifle before it really fitted him properly. Initially I shortened the butt by about 2 inches, as the stock's standard length was more suited to adult proportions, and at 12 years old Pheon still has a long way to go before he is 'man-sized'!

A critical look at the air rifle and shooter during a paper target training session at the farm showed that a small increase in the butt length would make the Air Wolf a perfect fit. Adding a rubber recoil pad about 1/2 inch thick took care of that, and gave the butt a better proportioned look again.

The next item to receive attention was the height of the scope above the cylinder. The Air Wolf's comb is definitely not scope

height, and although ideal for shooting with the rifle's fitted open sights it needs to be higher for most scopes and mounts. So it was either raise the comb or drop the sight line — and I chose the latter!

A Tasco 4 x 20 scope with a dual-X reticule had initially been fitted, and I changed this for an older Tasco 4 x 20 scope, which had lower integral mounts. A second benefit was that the optics on the older sight were slightly better than on the newer model — not a sign of the times I am sure. The thicker reticule, which was also dual-X, gave a better aiming reference, too, which is well worth remembering if you are buying a scope for a youngster. A thicker reticule is easier to use and gives good definition against the target.

I stripped the rifle down to check the lubrication and found a very dry cylinder. Checking the spring's fit to the piston revealed a generous tolerance to compensate for spring binding — enough to allow me to fit a slightly larger diameter spring in its place. The result was a small increase in pellet velocity and a quieter action, thanks to Card Gel.

I also fitted a leather sling to the Air Wolf. This was partly for carrying purposes, but mainly because a sling of the proper length gives another 'anchor' when looped over the leading arm just above the elbow.

While I made the modifications I wondered how many young shooters are using outfits where they have to crane their necks to look into the scope, and stretch their necks to compensate for an over long butt. Quite a few, I would imagine!

Pheon's 'new' rifle fitted him like a glove — no more searching for the right eye relief, let alone trying to find the best balance between cheek contact with the comb and optimum eye line to the scope!

Prior to the work being done, Pheon's results on paper targets had been erratic. Generally, ten shots gave a reasonable group of four or five, with the rest falling in a good imitation of a shotgun pattern! I had previously proven the Air Wolf's accuracy myself using Wasp pellets, so I knew that if Pheon did his part correctly the rifle would not let him down.

Last month I mentioned the knockdown/re-set plastic target Pheon has been practising on — a dayglow boar of the same size used in air rifle 'silhouette' shooting in the States. The kill zone is a generous 3 in x 2 in, but at over 25 yards it becomes more challenging with the Air



Pheon's hit rate is improving noticeably.

Wolf, with groups of around one inch.

Pheon was making about eight hits in 10 shots on a good round, though he was still inconsistent. I soon spotted the reason — the dreaded 'flinch' which plagues shooters of airguns and full-bore rifles!

In the case of flinching with a moderately powered air rifle, the cause is not so much the actual force of the recoil, it's more a mental anticipation of discharge. Like any sudden noise or movement which you know is about to happen, it can cause a 'defensive' reaction. In this case the eyes blink shut, the muscles holding the rifle twitch and the result is not very good! Allied to this is the fact that very few of us are Malcolm Coopers — no rock steady point of aim for us, unless of course there's a convenient 'rest' available.

In field conditions the point of aim will almost always be moving on and off the desired aiming point. The secret of marksmanship here is to squeeze the trigger each time the aiming point is lined up correctly, hold the pressure as it moves off, then squeeze again as the line up comes back on point. After a few 'passes' the rifle will discharge, and if everything else is right the pellet will land right where it was intended. You can imagine how easy it is to build up an anticipatory flinch, and once set into the shooting pattern it can be very difficult to remove.

One technique is to make the afflicted shooter transfer his or her attention to the pellet. It may seem nuts — but it works! By concentrating on the projectile itself, willing it to land where desired — and I mean fully

projecting its flight path mentally — the event of discharge will become a secondary, not a primary concern.

Another, more direct way to overcome flinching is to 'know' you are about to flinch and consciously stop it from happening, willing the muscles not to respond to orders.

At present Pheon is doing well to overcome the problem and his accuracy is improving, though he is not yet completely over it. After a lengthy practice session, when tiredness and lack of direct concentration emerge, Pheon's consistency drops because of an occasional flinch. I call a halt to shooting at this point — we either take a break or call it a day, depending on the time.

I had previously talked Pheon through trajectory relative to elevation. I've heard various explanations given as to why the point of aim should be different at an upward or downward angle. Some were right, but others were the equivalent of the old soldier's advice on point of aim, which had a lot to do with what time of day it was!

The most logical explanation and method is really quite obvious. If a rifle is zeroed at 30 yards to the horizontal and a shot is fired at an angle of about 45 degrees at the same range in pellet flight, then effectively the pellet has only travelled through a gravity field of about 18 yards. By treating the range as 18 yards the point of aim will be about right — ie, you aim lower, because the pellet would hit above the sight line.

So, broadly speaking, treat a pigeon in a tree — it's not often you find paper targets

up trees — as a geometric reference point to yourself, with the tree's horizontal distance from you as part of the 'shape'. If the line from your feet to the base of the tree and the line from eye to target resembles a slice of cheese, it will be less than 45 degrees, so less 'underhold' is necessary if the target is 'zero range' distant. The higher the target, and the more pronounced the angle of aim, the lower the point of aim should be.

Perhaps one day we'll have scopes with built-in micro-processors to work all this out for us, complete with self-adjusting reticules allied to automatic range-finders! In the meantime only NATO can afford that kind of equipment, so it's all down to thinking it out and acquired skill by practice.

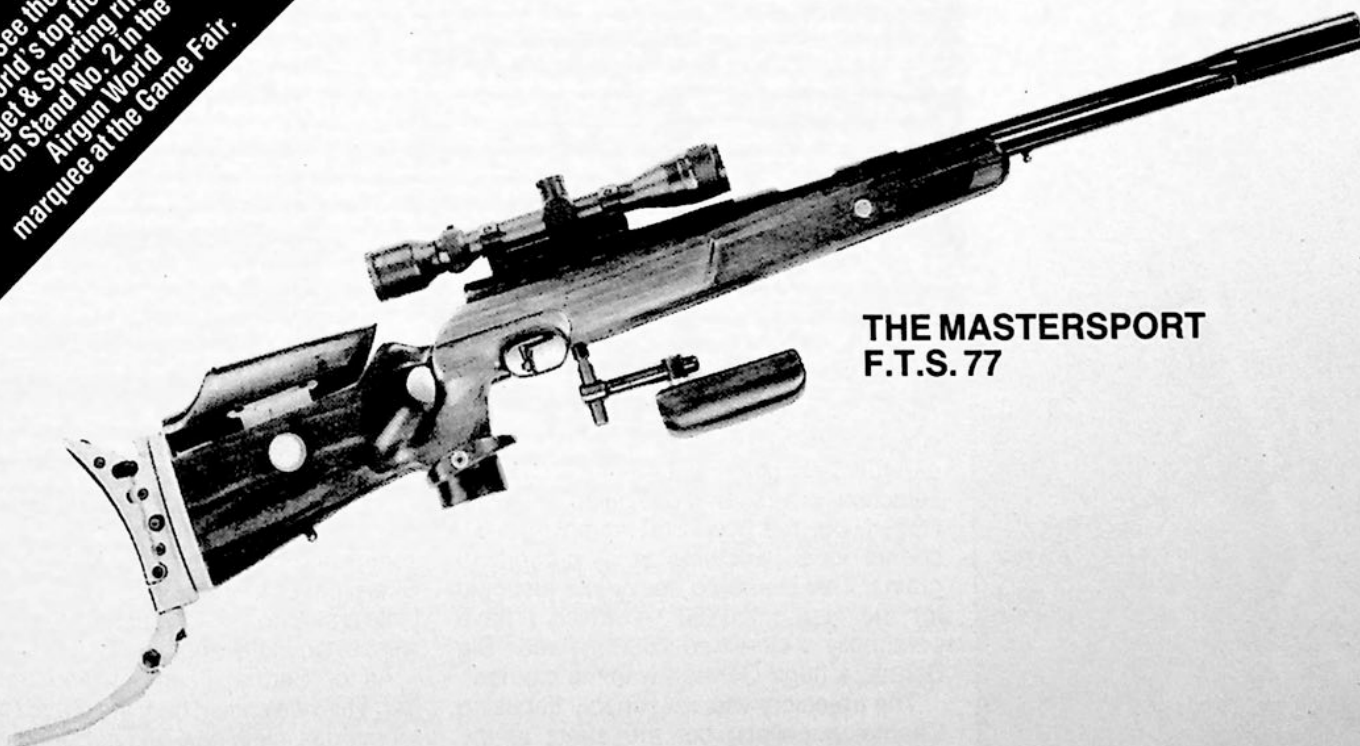
Ranges can be deceptive to the eye, as apparent distances in woods and comparatively open spaces vary. Even individual shooters seem confused about it, as I've heard some say that distances in woods look greater than distances in the field, and vice versa. This emphasises how much experience counts with long-range targets on deceptive terrain. With the high failure rate on those 'far-out' competition targets, it would be interesting to know if they are generally 'undershot' or 'overshot'!

I set up a high target for Pheon — actually he climbed the tree, and I gave directions! — paced off the required 25 yards range and went over the theory with him again. He took a few shots to 'find' the right point of aim, but once found he hit it consistently. Not yet one inch groups, but he's getting there!

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HUNTING

FIRST, I MUST apologise for breaking my promise to examine the new Eley heavyweight pellets, of which I have some pre-production samples. This pellet has

been made to challenge the H & N Silhouette and the RWS Superdome, together with the more recent H & N 'Field Target' pellet. All of these are a direct challenge to the might of the Eley Wasp, and Eley have asked me to hang fire for the moment as they are considering further design changes — although their new pellet, in my opinion, is a world beater as it is! Suffice it to say that as soon as I get more news I will let you know first!

Most airgunners who have never owned a .25 calibre air rifle would comment, '.25? Forget it'. The old .25s faded out before the last War, as they are slow, inaccurate and the trajectory is akin to that of a Roman ballista! Post-War attempts using the BSA Mercury by Manchester Airguns, and more

Steve Harper's HW80 costs just £135 — including silencer and ammo.

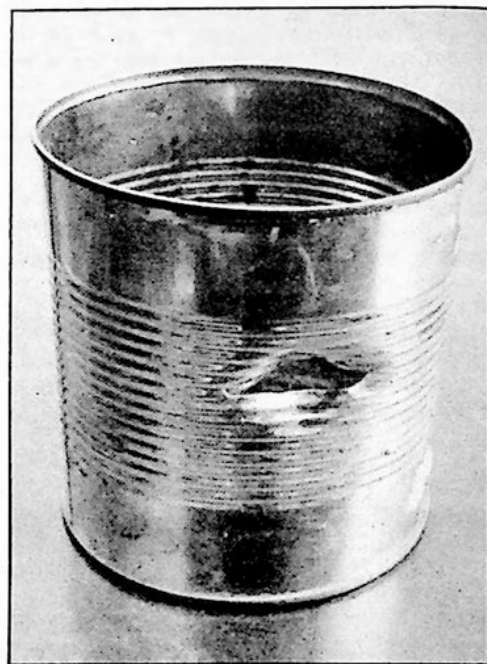
Colin Hope tests a big bore airgun



Left: The .25 LEM balls were moulded into elongated bullets after firing.



Below left: The new .25 Champion pellet was ideal for 'Bertha'.



The effects of the Harper big bore at 30 metres.

Bertha's A Beauty

recently the Cobra have not received the best press, although I found the Cobra quite good when I reviewed it last year.

So when I was offered yet another sample by Steve Harper of Harper Classic Guns — of pneumatic walking stick fame — I feared it would be the same old story. But I couldn't have been more wrong!

Steve chose the HW80 because of its power potential and inherent excellent engineering qualities. Using a new and special rifling machine, he has rifled the barrel one twist every eight inches so that the heavy .25 pellet leaves the muzzle spinning at an incredible 50,000 revolutions per minute! This stabilises the normally errant .25 completely and this Harper air rifle is very accurate indeed, as well as being extremely powerful.

FAC versions are available but I am concentrating here on the 12 ft lb version, which is bang on the legal limit due to careful re-shaping of the transfer port. The selection of .25 ammo available is very limited, but the new .25 Champion pellet seems ideal, weighing in at around 19 grains. This is not too heavy and just right for the Harper HW80 — which I have personally nicknamed 'Bertha' after Big Bertha, a huge German wartime cannon!

The trajectory was reasonably flat using Champion pellets, but the effect of the ammo on reaching the target is devastating! I don't like using tin cans to illustrate sheer power but I must confess

that nothing is more dramatic. I have illustrated this with a photo of a can struck by the Harper pellet at 30 metres. As you can see, no rabbit could survive this shock and the poor old woodie I shot out of the oak in my garden was not only dead when he hit the deck, but almost plucked as well!

As a hunting weapon, therefore, Bertha is very useful and this is all due to the superbly rifled barrel.

I decided to experiment with a .25 LEM ball mould which I have had for many years. These balls weigh around 26 grains, but they proved to be a tight fit in the Harper breech. However, they still came out of the muzzle at a fair rate of knots and I found that such is the power of the rifle that they were moulded into elongated bullets, with rifling grooves neatly embossed along the whole length.

Not surprisingly, therefore, these were not as accurate as the Champion .25s, but I think a slightly smaller ball would be suitable for the felling of hares at some range.

Steve is producing heavier ammo and the samples I tested were also accurate, albeit a good deal more expensive than the original Champion pellets.

Steve Harper will undertake the rifling of some barrels to .25 calibre, including the Sharp pneumatic, but please telephone or write first. Don't send your gun off complete without an initial enquiry.

As for 'Bertha', I can only find praise for her. This rifle should bury the old .25 doubts for ever as it is a new and exciting concept in airgunning. At £135, including silencer and ammo, it also represents good value for money.





CLUB FINDER

Airgun World is constantly being asked for information on airgun clubs in various areas so, to save you time and money, we've decided to publish all the club details we have on our files. If you have any problems with the addresses or telephone numbers listed here, contact us and we'll look into the matter for you. And if you'd like your club included in the directory, just drop us a line with your club's name, secretary's address and telephone number.

AVON

Avon Hawks ARC, Nancy Griffiths, Meadow Edge, Bristol Road, Churchill, Avon, BS19 5NJ. Tel: 0934 852951.

Yatton ARC, Graham Snook, 53 Chescombe Road, Yatton, Bristol, BS19 4EU. Tel: 0934 835305.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Markyate ARC, John Ford, 17 Moor End Close Eaton Bray, Beds. Tel: 0525 221697

BERKSHIRE

Herchel AWC, John Ballard, 17 Atherton Court, Eton, Windsor, Berks, SL4 6BN. Tel: 0753 866590.
Old Windsor R & PC, Dave Clements, 35 Ashbrook Road, Old Windsor, Berks, SL4 2LT. Tel: 0753 863577.
Reading & DAC, Mrs Irene Carter, 3 Shipley Close, Woodley, Reading, Berks, RG5 4RT. Tel: 0734 693590.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bucks AR & PC, Tony Denyer, 12 Stockfield Close, Hazlemere, Bucks. Tel: 049481 2710.
Burnham & DR & PC, B. Veal, 16 Stanhope Road, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 6JS. Tel: 06286 63949.
Chiltern ARC, John Sparks, 45 Bournehall Avenue, Bushy, Herts. Tel: 01 950 4713.
Hazlemere AR & PC, John Howe, 18 Carrington Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel: 0494 30754.
Marlow R & PC, P. Pearce, 3 Spinners Walk, Marlow, Bucks. Tel: 06284 5414.

Milton Keynes Alrgunners, Bill Farrugia, 1 Thresher Grove, Greenleys, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Tel: 0908 319856.

CHESHIRE

Stockport & DABC, Clive Aldred, 32 Worsley Crescent, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. Tel: 061 483 8902.
Wilslow RC, J. Krause, 4 Fern Lea, Heald Green, Cheshire, SK8 3RB. Tel: 061 437 9903.
Windmill Hill FSC, Mrs Y. Banlin, 5 Norton Hill, Windmill Hill, Runcorn, Cheshire, W97 6QE. Tel: 0928 710167.

CLEVELAND

Ormesby ARC, Andrew Knox, 31 Westminster Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS5 6NF. Tel: 0642 821567.

CORNWALL

Launceston ARC, Alfred Rowe, Maxworthy Farm, North Petherwin, Launceston, Cornwall. Tel: 056685 239.

CUMBRIA

Barrow ARFTC, John Wallwork, Honeysuckle Corner, 149 Park Avenue, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9BN.

DERBYSHIRE

Codnor F & TC, Cindy Hunt, Cindy's Shooting Shop, Red Lion Square, Hearn, Derbys. Tel: 0773 769600.

Countryman AC, Peter Burgess, 27 Briarwood Ave, Droylsden, Manchester, M35 7RQ. Tel: 061 370 8259.

Matlock AR & PC, W. Cheng, 32 The Knoll, Tansley, Matlock, Derbys, DE4 5FN. Tel: 0538 723586.

DEVON

Exmouth APRC, F. Payne, 22 Marcom Close, Exmouth, Devon. Tel: 0395 275643.

Torbay ARC, Ray Dunn. Tel: 0803 528036.

DORSET

Dorset Small-bore Rifle & Pistol Association, M. Johnson, Cherry Tree Cottage, Woodbridge Lane, Bournemouth, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0JU.

South Dorset FTC, Alan Forrest, 15 Overton Walk, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 7TR. Tel: 0258 51114.

Springshot AR & PC, G. Gilbert, 202 Green Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 1EG.

DURHAM

Hurworth Grange AWC, Dr M. Robson, 28 The Green, Hurworth-on-Tees, Darlington, Co. Durham. Tel: 0325 720187.

ESSEX

Colne Valley AGC, A. Bonnett. Tel: 07875 2582.

Essex County R & PA, Mrs P. Holland, 51 Risdens, Pinceybrook Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 7NL.

Highwood Field AWC, Dave Dixon, 102 Shepherds Hill, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex. Tel: 04023 49257.

Icenl Marksmen, Mrs C. Everett, 44 Walford Way, Coggeshall, near Chelmsford, Essex. Tel: 0376 82472.

Newland Hall Sporting ARC, Richard Bailey, Newland Hall, Roxwell, near Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4LH. Tel: 024531 463.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Cheltenham AWC, M. Taylor, 52 Colesbourne Road, Benhall, Cheltenham, Glos, GL51 6DN. Tel: 0242 525045.

Foderm FSC, Frank Tonge, Canberra, New Road, Coalway, Coleford, Glos, GL16 7HL. Tel: 0594 33908.

Gloucester ARPC, A. Steele, 23 Colwell Avenue, Hucclecote, Glos, GL3 3LZ.

Savern Vale ARC, Frank Tunbridge, 36 Llanthony Road, Hempsford, Gloucester, Glos, GL2 6HL. Tel: 0452 502713.
Tawkesbury ARPC, A. Steele, 23 Colwell Avenue, Hucclecote, Glos, GL3 3LZ.
Van-Moppes IDP AWC, T. Beattie, 5 Westland Road, Hardwicke, Glos. Tel: 0452 721385.

HAMPSHIRE

A.R.C. ARC, L. Berry, 20 Longlands Road, Southbourne, near Emsworth, Hants, PO10 8HL. Tel: 0243 378505.

Basingstoke AR & PC, Derek Peckover, 5 Kathleen Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 3LN. Tel: 0256 5511.

Test Valley AGC, Mike Maidment. Tel: 079430343.
The Dell AC, Rod Ashton, 89 Redwing Rd, Clainfield, Portsmouth, Hants. Tel: 0705 596906.
Vectis FTC, Cowes, Isle of Wight. Tel: Graham Biggs, 0983525 969.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Cuffley FTC, Stuart Hollis, c/o 60 Felixstowe Road, Edmonton, London, N9 0DU.

Harpenden AWC, Mr S. Hawkins, 248 Lower Luton Road, Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8HN. Tel: 058283 3335.

North Watford AR & PC, Rodney Salter, 88 Eastbury Road, Oxhey, Watford, Herts, WD1 4JL.

Potters Bar AR & PC, A. Hedgecock, 133 Church Road, Potters Bar, Herts. Tel: 0707 50326.

HUMBERSIDE

Grimby AWC, Ken Oliver, 15 Blyndon Grove, Grimby, South Humberside.

Scunthorpe CAWS, D. Needham, 37 High Lays Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside. Tel: 0724 868273.

Trent Valley Marksmen FTC, Graham Henderson, 33 Messingham Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside. Tel: 0724 847303/872941.

KENT

Invicta FTC, C.J. Long, 34 Victoria St, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1HZ. Tel: 0227 274739.

Maldstone AR & PC, T. Boardman, 53 Sidney Street, Maidstone, Kent. Tel: 0622 27102.

Medway AR & PC, Alan Reed, 5 Eden Road, High Halstow, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8ST. Tel: 0634 252961.

Medway Valley AC, Mrs S. Lasheras, 30 Crown Acres, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 5HB. Tel: 01 302 2707.

Sevenoaks & DAWC, Fred Innes, 72 Wickenden Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3PW. Tel: 0732 456673.

South East AWC, Steve Cobb, 46 Kent House Lane, Beckenham, Kent. Tel: 01 659 4708.

Swanley AR & PC, M. Munro, 11 Hever Wood Road, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6HL. Tel: 047485 2140.

LANCASHIRE

Blackburn & DOAC, Paul Nolan, 85 Preston Road, Coppull, near Chorley, Lancs. Tel: 0257 793247.

Newman AR & PA, J. O'Connor, 94 Broadwood Drive, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs, PR2 4TE. Tel: 0772 719359.

Rivington Riflemen, Ian Jones, 2 Brecon Road, Blackburn, Lancs, BB1 3JY. Tel: 0254 61100.

LEICESTERSHIRE

British Telecom AWC, G. Richardson, 13 Ireton Road, Leicester.

Loughborough AWC, R. Shields, 90A Charnwood Road, Shepshed, Leicester. Tel: 05095 4484.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Finotound AFTC, Ian Charlton, 19 Dolphin Lane, Boston, Lincs, PE21 6EU. Tel: 0205 64781.

Lincoln AWC, Ron Mallen. Tel: 0522 751434.

LONDON

Environment R & PC, F. Seckleman, D.O.E. P.S.A., Room 7/40 St Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1 0TE.

Kensington R & PC, 120 West Cromwell Road, London W14.

Merton AR & PC, Tony Betts, 15 Camborne Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4JL.

Phoenix AWC, Ron Hewston, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ. Tel: 01 693 6403.

South-East London AWC (for disabled shooters), Fred Duhig, 2 Rutherglen Road, London, SE2 0XU. Tel: 01 311 5545.

Tower Hamlets AWC, L. Hancock, 121 Whitehorse Lane, London E1 4LP.

MERSEYSIDE

Aintree AC, Frank Murray, 83 Park Lane, Liverpool, L17 8UP. Tel: 051 723 8390.

Southport R & PC, E.P. Griffiths, 31D Sefton Road, Litherland, Liverpool, L21 9HA. Tel: 051 928 4100.

Winchester FT & AC, Ron Matthews, 3 Honeysuckle Drive, Walton, Liverpool 9. Tel: 051 521 7924.

Windmill Hill FSC, Alan Shaw, 4 Beaufort Close, Widnes, Cheshire, WAB 8JF. Tel: 051 423 1012.

Woodman ARC, Andrew Peel, 69 Peterlee Close, Sutton Heath, St Helens, Merseyside. Tel: 0744 812199.

MIDDLESEX

Abbot RC, A. Mote, 48A High Street, Pinner, Middx, HA5 5PW. Tel: 01 866 8500.

West London Rangers ARC, J. Wallace, 38 Windermere Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Tel: 01 904 4710.

Whitton AWC, Raymond Evans, 8 Deni Dene Close, Stanwell, Staines, Middx. Tel: 07842 44516.

NORFOLK

Broadlands FTC, Ian Chappell, Fakenham House, The Street, Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk. Tel: 0603 712387.

Cromer AR & PC, Sue Potter, 17 Hillside Road, Beeston Regis, Norfolk, NR26 8TT. Tel: 0263 824536.

North Walsham ARC, D. Sharp, Pitt Cottage, Thorpe Market, Norwich, NR11 8TU.

Northwich ARC, S. Briggs, 106 Shakespear Way, Taverham, Norwich. Tel: 0603 860139.

Roundwell ARC, P. Dennis, 144 St Mildreds Road, Earham, Norwich.

Thetford AR & PC, Martin Smith, 24 Cannons Close, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 3PW. Tel: 0842 61117.

NORTHANTS

Northampton AR & PC, D. Bailey, 143 Birchfield Road, Northampton. Tel: 0604 720042.

Rushden & DARC, J. Parkinson, 85 Highfield Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9QJ. Tel: 0933 311433.

Sywell AWC, P. Wasilewski, 18 Edward Road, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Morpeth ARC, John Hunter, YMCA Buildings, Dark Lane, Morpeth, Northumberland.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Workshop SBRC, D. Lowe, 19 Ashley Road, Workshop, Notts. Tel: 0909 480836.

Victory AC, Peter Wilkinson, 5 Alandene Avenue, Watnall, Notts. Tel: 0602 389133.

OXON

Cotswold ARC, Bill Stanton, 6 Squires Close, Brize Norton, Oxon, OX8 3PN. Tel: 0993 841121.

Thame & DARC, M. Trivett, 3 Rectory Cottage, Adwell, Tetsworth, Oxon, OX9 7DH.

Windrush AR & PC, N. Tinson, 86 Richens Drive, Carterton, Oxon, OX8 3XP. Tel: 0993 843009.

SHROPSHIRE

Audco ARC, N. Heinrich, Flat 1, Littlehales Manor, Chelwynd Aston, Newport, Shropshire. Tel: 0952 815104.

Kings Head ARC, Michael Hodgkiss, 30 Dalelands West, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 1DQ.

North Staffs SG, G.R. Bourne. Tel: 0782 625385/063081 7069.

Telford FTC, Richard Johns, Bayley Hills House, High Street, Edgmond, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8JR. Tel: 0952 813157.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Hilton Park FTC, Featherstone, Staffs. Tel: Mr Cod on 0902 633000.

Lichfield AGC, I.H. Smart, 7 Freeth Rd, Brownhills, Walsall, WS8 6JG. Tel: 0543 373564.

SUFFOLK

Halberrd ARPC, Kenneth Allen, 4 Link Road, Chapel St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2HH. Tel: 0473 310161.

Honington & DARC, Clive Pask, 14 Croft Rise, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Tel: 0284 63774.

Pinbush Fieldmen, Derek White, 82 Beccies Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk. Tel: 0502 61455.

SURREY

Merton AR & PC, Tony Betts, 15 Camborne Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4JL.

North Downs AR & PC, Barry Blinks, 6 Westbourne Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6HP. Tel: 01 654 1926.

SUSSEX

Eastbourne AGC, Colin Hodgson, 64 Susans Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN27 3TG. Tel: 0323 644492.

Horsham & DFTSC, R. Codd, 20 Lime Avenue, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4DZ.

Lavant Larks ARC, Peter Bodking, 63 Springfield Close, Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0YZ. Tel: 0243 774574.

Swallows AGC, P. Grainger, 36 Pines Avenue, Worthing, Sussex, BN14 9TO. Tel: 0903 30585.

Wellbrook SC, R. Robinson, Wellbrook Shooting Centre, Mayfield, Sussex, TN20 6EH. Tel: 0435 873230.

TYNE & WEAR

Concorde AR & PS, Dave Dykes, 16 Neale Street, Fulwell, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear. Tel: 0783 487777.

WARWICKSHIRE

Newbold ARC, Gordon Graham, 4 Church Terrace, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 8TT. Tel: 078987 473.

Spa ARC, Michael Phillipson, 122 Villiers Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5YE. Tel: 0926 34871.

WEST MIDLANDS

Albert Marston ARC, Shirley Allsop, 34 Willow Road, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 8AF. Tel: 0902 335887.

Birmingham & DARL, June Kelcey, 25 Croft Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B26 1SG.

Crown & Cushion Bell Target Club, A. Wall, 45 Ocker Hill Road, Ocker Hill, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0XE.

Hill Farm FTC, C. Wootton, 38 Stade Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.

Kings Heath AR & PC, A. Brown, 6 Hayfield Gardens, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9LE. Tel: 021 449 9592.

Moorpool AR & PC, Sheila Preece, 13 The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9EE. Tel: 021 427 3618.

Rough Wedge FTSC, Gary Holland, 48 Coalway Road, Blaxwich, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 2PU. Tel: 0922 408053.

Stourvale Woodsmen, R. Garton, 70 Park Lane, Wednesbury, West Midlands. Tel: 021 556 4946.

Warley AR, A. Kingscott, 40 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Warley, West Midlands. Tel: 021 429 5927.

Wyken AR & PC, F. Tudor, 28 Sommerville Road, Wyken, Coventry, CV2 5GY. Tel: 0203 454060.

Yorkwood ARC, I. Buckley, 77 Reaburn Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 7LO. Tel: 021 360 3653.

WILTSHIRE

Thamesdown AR & PC, K. Montgomery, 32 Copse Avenue, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 2PX. Tel: 0793 44541.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Arley AR & FTC, D. Lee, Pichards, Bromley Lane, Arley, near Bewdley, Worcs.

Clay Farm FTC, M. Ginn, 10 York Street, Stourport on Severn, Worcs. Tel: 02993 2212.

Droitwich Spa FTC, P. Fern, 9 Hawford Place, Chawson, Droitwich, Worcs. Tel: 0905 770739.

Redditch & DARL, D. Crumpton, 3 Tennyson Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs, B97 5BL. Tel: 0527 43617.

Wyre Foresters FTC, M.J. Short, 12 Chiltern Close, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs. Tel: 02993 6841.

YORKSHIRE

Air Rifle Members Association, Mrs A. Proctor, 13 Wayland Avenue, Wardgreen, Bamsley, S70 8HY. Tel: 0226 6409.

Calderdale Hunters AR & PC, Don Faulkner, 43 Hunter Hill Road, Mixenden, Halifax, W. Yorks, HX2 8ST. Tel: Graham Dyson 0422 835048.

Dog & Gun AR & PC, Trevor Holroyd, 10 Fire Station Houses, Gipton App, Leeds 9. Tel: 0532 495633.

Don Valley FTC, Dave Hindley, 7 Stafford Road, Doncaster, South Yorks, DN6 7LP. Tel: 0302 732977.

Fairburn AWC, J. Jackson, 19 Lowther Grove, Garforth, Leeds. Tel: 0532 872589.

Handsworth AWC, Ray Swift, 1a Flockton Avenue, Handsworth, Sheffield, S13 9QP. Tel:

Basingstoke Triple Success

Basingstoke AR & PC held a very successful open shoot on April 27th, which they hope to make an annual event after a lapse of two or three years since the last 'Triple'.

Basingstoke AR & PC's next open shoot will be held on August 31st at the Walled Garden, Down Grange, Basingstoke, starting at 9.30 a.m. Events will include a main shoot, pigeon shoot, long-range shoot and a pistol turning target. There will also be trade stands at the event and for further details contact Derek Peckover on Basingstoke 54214.

RESULTS (ex 400), 10 metre rifle. Class A: 1. A. Meade 278. Class B: 1. A. Constable 363. Class C: H. Jones 358. Teams: 1. Herschel. 6 yard rifle. Class A: A. Meade 395. Class B: 1. H. Jones 374. Class C: A. Reynolds 349. Teams: 1. Medway. 10 metre pistol. Class A: 1. L. Neill 374. Class B: 1. R. Pendleton 363. Class C: 1. R. Beale 355. Teams: 1. Medway. 6 yard pistol. Class A: 1. R. Williamson 374. Class B: 1. D. Cantrille 259. Class C: 1. K. Jensen 48. Teams: 1. Portsmouth Gas.

Springshot Need New Members

Here's some news for airgunners in the Bournemouth area. If you're interested in joining a very active air rifle club, with an indoor and outdoor range and one which holds postal competitions, contact Springshot AR & PC's secretary G. Gilbert at 202 Green Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 1EG.

Stockport Charity Success

Stockport & DAC held a testing 20 bird open shoot on May 3rd, in conjunction with the annual Multiple Sclerosis Charity Fair.

The day started warm and sunny with a light breeze, but then turned cold with showers and a strong cross-wind which made the already testing range even harder. The unsettled weather didn't deter the 88 people who went through the main event, though, and the overall winner was G. Henderson with 18. After a sudden death shoot-off S. Hart finished second, P. Hughes was third and A. Hayes was fourth.

All proceeds from the event went to charity and the club would like to thank North West Field Sports for donating the prizes.

Stockport & DAC are also looking for new members, so if you live in the area and would like to join an airgun club, give Clive Aldred a ring on 061-483 8902 or Gary Aldred on 061-477 9080.

Spencer Double At Don Valley

Don Valley FTC's field target shoot on May 11th proved very successful for F. Spencer who won the main event with 24 ex 25 and the long-range shoot. N. Clark won the speed shoot with a time of 1 minute — is this a record?

The team shoot — four men 'scratch' teams who invented their own names — was won by 'The Wallies', alias the Pontefract foursome of B. Clark, G. Henderson, D. Hamill and D. Thompson who scored 79 ex 100.



The Wallies in action!

RESULTS. Main shoot: 1. F. Spencer 24, 2. H. Swift 22, 3. D. Hamill 22. Juniors: 1. L. Todd 21, 2. P. Whitehouse 20, 3. J. French 20. Ladies: 1. L. Peakman 16. Long-range: 1. F. Spencer, 2. P. Whitehouse, 3. 2. A. Calpin. Speed shoot: 1. N. Clark, 2. Calpin, 3. F. Spencer.

Hilton Park Fixtures

Hilton Park FTC will be holding open shoots on July 27th, August 10th and August 24th at Yells Farm, Hilton Lane, Sharncliffe, Featherstone, Staffs. The club will also be running open shoots every fortnight from August 24th. For further details phone 0902 633000.

Mendip Memo

We have received the following statement from D. Horswell: 'Mendip Fieldsmen have now disbanded due to lack of interest in serious field target shooting in the area'.



Winners at Stockport. Left to right: P. Hughes, S. Hart, A. Hayes and G. Henderson. Clive Aldred rests his foot in the foreground!

Markyate Double At Bucks

Mark Cameron of Markyate won the Bucks AR & PC's open shoot on May 26th. Second was Mark Camoccio, also of Markyate and third was R. Ansell of Chiltern.

RESULTS. Main event: 1. R. Cameron, 2. M. Camoccio, 3. R. Ansell. Juniors: 1. K. Moore, 2. P. Hawkins, 3. N. Chamberlain. Long-range: 1. B. McCraw. Juniors: 1. M. Bampton. Match rifle: 1. R. Johnson. Match pistol: 1. R. Robinson.

Sunshine At The Sun Inn

Ormesby ARC wish to apologise to all those competitors who attended their shoot on May 18th at the Sun Inn because it was not up to their usual standard — there was no rain! For once the weather was fine and sunny for the three competition event.

The club set up a 20 target silhouette shoot in a woodland course with many interesting and varied shots, such as the bird partially concealed behind a waterfall! The competition resulted in a number of shoot-offs, but the outright winner with a score of 19 was Frank Spencer.

The pigeon decoy shoot proved, yet again, to be Dave Hamill's forte as he took the first place trophy for the third Ormesby shoot in succession with a maximum score. For fun Ormesby also put on a long distance clay shoot, with five clays set at 70-90 yards. Two competitors tied for first place with a score of four, but in the shoot-off B. Todd beat F. Spencer to win the pewter tankard.

Ormesby ARC would like to thank all competitors who attended the shoot, especially Ian Waghorn who presented Andrew Knox with a sketch summing up the 'pleasure' of an Ormesby shoot.

RESULTS. Silhouette: 1. F. Spencer, 2. S. Child, 3. D. Hamill, 4. J. Compton, 5. G. Henderson, 6. N. Clark. Certificates of merit: T. Nicholson, R. Selles & H. Swift. Juniors: R. Adamson. Ladies: 1. T. Wilson. Pigeon decoy: 1. D. Hamill, 2. P. Wood, 3. L. Todd & M. Akester. Long shot clay: 1. B. Todd, 2. F. Spener.

Cameron Is Swallows Winner

The Swallows Outdoor AC held a very taxing open shoot on May 11th and although the weather was cold and windy most shooters enjoyed the event. The shoot included a 30 knockdown target shoot, a pistol electric turning shoot, with five shots at the ace of spades, a 70 yard long-range metal silhouette shoot and a 20-bird shoot.

RESULTS. 30 Knockdown: 1. R. Cameron 21, 2. D. Welham 20, 3. J. Lasheras 19. Pistol: 1. D. Hewson 4, 2. D. Welham 4, 3. A. Wood 3. 20-bird: 1. J. Lasheras 19, 2. A. Reard 19, 3. M. Camoccio 18. Long-range: 1. R. Verrier 2, 2. M. McCraw 2, 3. R. Cameron 1.

South West League Winners

A total of 20 seniors, three juniors and two ladies qualified at the South-West of England area qualifier held at Avon Hawks ARC on May 11th for the final of the national BFTC Championships to be held later this year. First was N. Jenkinson with 29 ex 30, second was R. Beaugie with 27 and third R. Ward on 26.

Other news from the South-West of England Field Target Association is that N. Jenkinson is the 1985-86 SWEFTA Winter League Champion, with R. Beaugie second and N. Dawson third. The Champion club is Mendip Fieldsmen, with Quarry Shooters runners-up.

RESULTS. Champion: N. Jenkinson 127 ex 150, 2. R. Beaugie 125, 3. N. Dawson 114, 4. J. Westacott 113, 5. N. Allen & M. Hill 112, 7. P. Marshall 111, 8. D. Horswell 103, 9. J. Jennings & A. Betteridge 102. Juniors: 1. I. Bedford 85.

New Members Wanted

Windmill Hill FSC held their AGM recently and the following were elected to the committee. Chairman — Alan Shaw; Vice-Chairman — Keith Eustace; Secretary — Gill Moore; Treasurer — Andy Marron.

The club is based in Runcorn, Cheshire and is looking for new members of all ages, so if you're interested contact Alan Shaw at 4 Beaufort Close, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8JF. Tel: 051 423 1012.

AIRGUN WORLD CLUB FINDER

continued from page 63

North-West Hunters, Ian Hill, 29 Birch Court, Old Monkland Road, Coatbridge, ML5 5ED. Tel: 0236 25007.

Number Five Inn ARC, 15 Church Grove, Sauchie, Alloa, FK10 3BU. Tel: 0259 217386.

Sneddon SG, 53 Black Sneddon Street, Paisley, Glasgow. Tel: 041 848 1849.

Strathclyde TSC, Thomas McGregor, 21 Lindum Street, Motherwell, Lanarkshire. Tel: 0698 51518.

Vale ARC, S. Porter, 158 Noblestone, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, G83 9DF. Tel: 0389 56623.

Westfield ARC, Trevor Davis. Tel: 041 952 5529.

Westerwood ARC, Mr Noon, 445 Royston Road, Glasgow. Tel: 041 552 0651.

WALES
Blaenau Gwent ARC, John Parker, 28 Granville Street, Abertillery, Gwent, NP23 1NR. Tel: 0495 211498.

Cambrian RC, Mrs C. Hodges, The Caretaker's House, St Mairs Day Centre, Aberdare, CF44 0TH.

Caerphilly AR & PC, Dave Lewis, 39 Bedwas Road, Caerphilly, Mid-Glamorgan, CF8 3AP.

Newport Rangers ARC, Alan Jones, 41 Baldwin Street, Newport, Gwent, NP22 2LU.

Ogmore Valley FTS, J. Thomas, 47 Dinham Street, Nantymoel, Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan.

Prescelly Scorpions FTC, Dewi Morse. Tel: 0437 67838.

Pontypridd ARC, G. Williams, 1 Niagara Street, Treforest, Pontypridd, Glamorgan, CF37 1BP. Tel: 0443 492815.

Quarry Rifles, Des Pask, 62 Hamilton Street, Canton, Cardiff, CF1 9BQ. Tel: 0222 23689.

South Wales AR & PC, Basil George, Ivy Cottage, Ogmore Road, Ogmore by Sea, Mid-Glamorgan. Tel: 0656 4440.

Whiteheads R & PC, Roger Davies, 21 Belvedere Terrace, Newport, Gwent. Tel: 0633 858617.

Ynysowen, ARC, Gary Jones, 35 Pantglas Road, Aberlan, Merthyr Tydfil. Tel: 0685 2491.

Allen On Target

Nigel Allen was the clear winner by six points at Fodarm FSC's field target shoot on May 18th. Second was Richard Ward and third place was decided after a sudden death shoot-off between Mark Wilkins, Mark Price, Mr Dodds and Mr Stuart. After drawing for straws for the order of shooting the tie breaker began with a 1/2 inch sized target at 15 metres. The first three shooters missed the target, but Mr Stuart stayed calm and knocked the target down in fine style to take third place.

Frank Tonge of the Forest of Dean Armoury who sponsored the event and Wayne Meek, the Fodarm team captain, wish to thank all the competitors and volunteers who made the shoot an enjoyable day.

RESULTS. Main shoot: 1. N. Allen 21, 2. R. Ward 15, 3. Mr Stuart 14. **Running Boar:** 1. N. Allen 58 ex 100, 2. Mr Rhodes 52, 3. Mr Clevely 36. **Deliberate Rifle:** 1. N. Allen 52 ex 100, 2. Mr Stuart 48, 3. Mr Roach 45. **Deliberate Pistol:** 1. F. Tonge 90 ex 100, 2. R. Ward 62.

North Watford Success

North Watford AR & PC has just completed the most successful year in the club's history. Their team of Tony Lumb, Bill Herold, Glynn Pennells and Rodney Salter achieved second place in division six of the national 6 yard winter postal league, winning seven of their nine matches in the division.

The club's two rifle teams in the National 6 yard winter leagues were both very well placed in their respective divisions and looked likely to finish first in division six and second in division eight, until both teams suffered disqualifications due to postal delays.

Rough End Of The Wedge

Rough Wedge FTSC are holding an open field target shoot at this year's Staffordshire Police Activity and Community Enterprise Scheme Fair, being held at Shugborough Hall, near Milford, Staffordshire on Sunday, August 3rd. Events will include a main shoot, a long-range shoot, a dump shoot and a newcomers' shoot to introduce people to the sport. Any newcomers who do not possess an air rifle will be able to borrow one at the Fair.

Further details are available from Gary Holland at 48 Coalway Road, Dudley Fields Estate, Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 2PU.

Dorset Postal Shoot

Dorset Smallbore Rifle & Pistol Association will be running an open 6 yard rifle and pistol league over eight rounds this winter. Entries will be divided into divisions on submitted averages and medals will be awarded to the first two places.

The entry fee of £1.50 should be made payable to DSRPA and sent with an SAE to M. Johnson, Cherry Tree Cottage, Woodbridge Lane, Bedchester, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0JU, to arrive no later than September 30th.

Robinson Romps Home

Due to bad weather there was a poor turn out for Prescally Scorpions' main shoot and vermin shoot held on May 25th. Good scores were put in, however, in both competitions, especially from junior shooter M. Robinson, who scored a brilliant 29 ex 30 in the main shoot.

RESULTS. Main shoot: 1. J. Thomas 30, 2. N. Allen 29, 3. I. Watkins 29, 4. J. Gornicki 29, 5. G. Robinson & N. Phipps 27, 7. R. Beaugie 26, 8. C. Robinson & A. Jones 25, 10. K. Gadd 24. **Juniors:** 1. M. Robinson 29. **Vermin shoot:** 1. N. Allen 20 ex 20, 2. M. Robinson 20, 3. R. Beaugie 20, 4. I. Watkins, G. Robinson, J. Thomas & N. Phipps 20, 8. P. Marshfield 19, 9. O. Tucker, J. Haines & J. Gornicki 18.

Clay Farm Dates

Clay Farm FTC in Kidderminster will be holding open shoots on July 20th, August 10th, August 31st and every three weeks after this. They will also be staging a field target shoot for the Worcestershire Game Conservancy Country Game Fair on July 19th. Entries start at 10 a.m. and there will be trophies and other prizes. For further details on any of these shoots, contact Ella Grinnall at 10 York Street, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs. Tel: Stourport 2212.

Help For Hill Farm

Can anyone help a newly formed field target club? Hill Farm FTC have just obtained permission from a farm to hold field target shoots, but they are in need of more members and guidance to make it successful. The members have so far managed to buy 20 targets, so if you're interested in helping this new club get off the ground contact the secretary, Mr C. Wootton, at 38 Slade Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV10 6QS.

Wellbrook Cancellation

Wellbrook SC at Mayfield, Sussex, regret to announce that their 6th Annual Hunter shoot on July 27th has been cancelled due to construction work at the farm. Further details are available on 0435 873230.

New Club In Shropshire

G. R. Bourne Guns & Tackle now have a new shooting ground at Larksfield Farm, Stoniford Lane, Aston, Pipe Gate, Market Drayton, Salop. They have already held two field target shoots, attracting about 60 guns each time, and each shoot has 30-40 targets set out in fields, barns and woodland creating a natural shooting environment. All shoots start at 10.30 a.m. with last entries at 12.30 p.m. and there is usually a long range pool shoot in addition to the main event. The club's remaining fixtures for the year are on August 25th, October 5th — North Staffordshire Field Target Championship — and a Christmas shoot on December 14th. For further details phone Pipe Gate 7069.

Spencer Scores At White Rose

White Rose AR & PC of Huddersfield held an open shoot on April 13th and F. Spencer won the main event and the speed shoot.

RESULTS. Main shoot: 1. F. Spencer, 2. D. Hammill, 3. G. Henderson. **Juniors:** 1. T. Jones. **Long-range:** 1. F. Spencer, 2. R. Sellars, 3. D. Hindley. **Ladles:** 1. A. Meade

South Yorkshire Spectacular



Charlie Edwards (left) presenting prizes at Rotherham's last shoot.

Rotherham ARC and Pinchmill FC are cancelling their open shoot on July 27th to put all their efforts into the South Yorkshire Championship to be held on that day. A gun case worth more than £80 has been donated from Top Deck of Sheffield, and you'll also have the chance to win some Mede targets and some *Airgun World* T-shirts — which they hope is only the start of the donations.

The club have spent a minimum

Scottish Shoot-Out

Westerwood ARC are holding an open shoot on August 10th at the Westerwood Jubilee Centre, Cumbernauld, Scotland. Events include a main shoot, speed shoot, long-range shoot and side shoots, starting at 10 a.m.

The event is sponsored by Gunmark, Leslie Hewett, Eley, Northern Arms and Ever-Ready. For further details contact Jim Kerr on Cumbernauld (0236) 720695.

of £150 on trophies and prizes at their last four open shoots and they would like to give a particular vote of thanks to the shooters and helpers who attended their last shoot on May 25th.

If you would like to sponsor the South Yorkshire Championship on July 27th or want further details, contact Charlie Edwards at 35 Furnival Way, Whiston, Rotherham, South Yorkshire. Tel: Rotherham 541744.

Fixtures at a glance

July 19th

Open field target shoot, Clay Farm FTC, Worcestershire Game Conservancy Game & Country Fair. Tel: 02993 2212.

July 20th

Open field target shoot, Thirsk AWC, Felixkirk SG, 3 miles from Thirsk on A170, North Yorkshire. Tel: 0845 24991.

Open field target shoot, Hilton Park FTC, Yells Farm, Hilton Lane, Shareshill, Featherstone, Staffs. Tel: 0902 633000.

Field target shoot, Clay Farm FTC, Clows Top, near Kidderminster, Worcs. Tel: 02993 2212.

July 27th

Open field target shoot, Fodarm FSC, Glyn Farm, Redbrook, off A446, Glos. Tel: 0594 3308.

Open field target shoot, Hilton Park FTC, Yells Farm, Hilton Lane, Shorehill, Featherstone, Staffs. Tel: 0902 633000.

South Yorkshire Championship. Tel: Rotherham 541744.

August 3rd

Open field target shoot, Rough Wedge FTSC, Staffordshire Police Activity & Community Enterprise Fair, Shugborough Hall, near Milford, Staffs.

Open field target shoot, Wellbrook SC, Wellbrook Farm, Mayfield, East Sussex. Tel: 0435 873230.

Field target shoot, York Jubilee AR & PC, North Lane, Huntingdon, York, off A64. Tel: 0904 400162.

August 10th

Open field target shoot, Westerwood ARC, Westerwood Jubilee Centre, Cumbernauld. Tel: 0236 720695.

Field target shoot, Clay Farm FTC, Clows Top, near Kidderminster, Worcs. Tel: 02993 2212.

Field target shoot, Bucks AR & PC, Morris Range, London Road, Wendover, Bucks. Tel: Penn 2710.

Field target shoot, Fodarm FSC, Glyn Farm, Redbrook, off A446, Glos. Tel: 0594 3308.

Open field target shoot, Thirsk AWC, Felixkirk SG, 3 miles from Thirsk on A170, North Yorks. Tel: 0845 24991.

August 24th

Open field target shoot, Fodarm FSC, Glyn Farm, Redbrook, off A446, Glos. Tel: 0594 3308.

Open field target shoot, Thirsk AWC, Felixkirk SG, 3 miles from Thirsk on A170, North Yorks. Tel: 0845 24991.

August 25th

Open field target shoot, North Staffs SG, Larksfield Farm, Stoniford Lane, Aston, Pipe Gate, Market Drayton, Salop. Tel: Pipe Gate 7069.

August 31st

Open field target shoot, Basingstoke AR & PC, Walled Garden, Down Grange, Basingstoke, Hants. Tel: 0256 80857.

Field target shoot, Clay Farm FTC, Clows Top, near Kidderminster, Worcs. Tel: 02993 2212.

Tom Downes recounts
the history of Skan chronoscopes

TECHNICAL

Chrono Kings



Above: The Skan Mk 5 AW chronoscope. Right: The Skan Mk 6 has a slightly faster rise time than the Mk 5.

WHO CAN REMEMBER the Skan Mk 1 chronograph, which was the first affordable electronic measuring instrument available to airgunners way back in 1977? Well for a start, I dare say the owners of the hundreds of these still in use today do.

Before then most of us had to guess the pellet velocity from our airgun muzzles, with power being measured by how many tin cans were penetrated from 10 feet! Nowadays, the company is called Skan — the c being exchanged for a k. Incidentally, the original title meant 'Speed check at nine inches', and their instruments are more properly called 'chronoscopes'.

The most successful instrument for home use now is Skan's Mk 4. I have one and it has performed excellently for four years. Venom Arms used one and regularly put 1,000 rounds daily through it until they upgraded to the Mk 5, which has a much larger hole to shoot through. Both the Mk 4 and Mk 5 are sold worldwide — even the Japanese buy them — and Skan must be one of the few British firms selling electronics to them!

The Mk 5 is designated 'AW' which means 'All Weapons' — this includes shotguns, crossbows, catapults, airguns and anything else that can be held in the hand.

Basically the Mk 6 is an improved Mk 5, using the latest CMOS complimentary metal oxide silicon chip. This circuitry offers no great benefits over the Mk 5 except for a slightly faster rise time, which to the operator is not detectable — but the Mk 6 is

designed to be more robust, almost to the point of indestructibility.

The unit is housed in a tough, flexible plastic casing and the shoot hole is even wider at six inches square. Anyone who misses this aperture should give up shooting at once! The new housing acts as a blast and sun shield. The sun shield is needed if you use the unit outside in bright sunlight, as the infra-red rays transmitted by the sun can cancel out the infra-red sensors housed within the shoot hole. The Mk 5 had a separate sun shield but the blast from a shotgun would often blow it off, so that it had to be securely taped into place. The Mk 6 has been designed to eliminate this problem.

The Mk 6 has three power supply modes — mains electricity and two battery options. I note with pleasure that the unit comes fitted with a mains plug! A rechargeable Ni-Cad battery pack is available which houses 20 AA sized batteries. The charger is integral, so the batteries do not have to be constantly removed.

The other battery option is a simple plug-in dry battery (PP9) — three of them in fact — which is consistent with most Skan models. The current drain of the basic unit is so small that battery life is up to three hours.

Also available is a plug-in automatic printer/calculator, which automatically prints out the velocity in feet per second after each shot! This facility costs £95 and would be a useful addition if the unit were

used every day.

Using the Mk 6 AW is simplicity itself, I tested it using air rifles, a .357 Magnum and a Colt Government Auto .45. The bright LED readout panel is situated on top of the unit facing the operator, and this gives the time that the bullet or pellet has taken to pass between the two banks of infra red detectors. A simple to read comparison chart is provided to check the velocity — a display readout of 1,001 has the velocity of 665.9 fps printed next to it on the chart.

You simply shoot the weapon through the shoot hole at the centre and the reading appears on the display. After a few seconds the display resets itself ready for the next shot. Nothing could be simpler than that!

The only user maintenance required is a very occasional wipe over the sensors in the shoot hole with a soft dry cloth. The Mk 6 AW is extremely portable and weighs 5½ lbs. Toughness and durability are claimed for the product, and although I wouldn't recommend that you drop the unit, I deliberately pushed it off the bench onto the floor. It was completely undamaged and worked perfectly afterwards.

The price of the Mk 6 AW is £177 plus post and packing. This price not only makes it a practical proposition for the enthusiast, but it also means that this unit has absolutely no competition in its class. Other foreign chronos costing over £500 do not have the advantages or facilities offered by the Mk 6 AW, and yet there has been no skimping on any part of it — just very clever and innovative design.

The Mk 5 is already used by several police forces, the Royal Army Research & Development Establishment and gun and pellet makers worldwide. The Mk 6 is destined for even greater success, and that is why Skan have moved to larger premises in Northampton, where they have a full circuit board production facility. Each Skan chronoscope is checked for accuracy against a master unit calibrated by the Royal Military College of Science.

Information relating to Skan products can be obtained by telephoning them on 0604 409402 or from their agents, Helston Gunsmiths on 0326 573385 and 561440, or The Airgun Centre on 0268 771730.

Collector's corner

by Geoffrey Boothroyd

I RECEIVED A letter recently from Peter Sernanni, who told me that he had found an old airgun while cleaning out a coal shed! Peter then carried out some research and found an illustration of a similar airgun on page 17 of John Walters' *Airgun Book*.

This shows the range of Milbro Diana airguns c. 1935, and my attention was drawn to the bottom left illustration and to the top airgun on page 27 of the Milbro catalogue — the M & G Diana airgun No 1 (Improved). Peter told me that his airgun was like this one, except that it had 'Milbro Scout' on each side of the metal stock and an engraving of a Scout. Underneath this was the legend 'Milbro Scout' on top of the breech end of the barrel. The gun was also marked 'Made in England.'

When discovered, both the inside and the outside of the gun were heavily rusted, which Peter managed to clean off. Oil applied internally allowed the gun to be cocked and fired if the trigger was pushed forward — the trigger spring was broken — but neither slugs nor darts could be fired since, as Peter put it, 'The thing inside the barrel where the pellet is placed is missing'. It could, of course be used as a 'pop' gun with a cork or potato!

Peter thought that the airgun might be useful as a basis for an article and told me that I could have it for the cost of postage. However, unlike most of my correspondents Peter did not live all that far away and a phone call to him was followed by a visit, complete with the Milbro Scout airgun — or, to be more precise, the remains of the airgun.

Its 'storage' in the coal shed for an unknown number of years had not been conducive to the preservation of the finish, but the legends on the gun could still be read and after applying a little more 'elbow

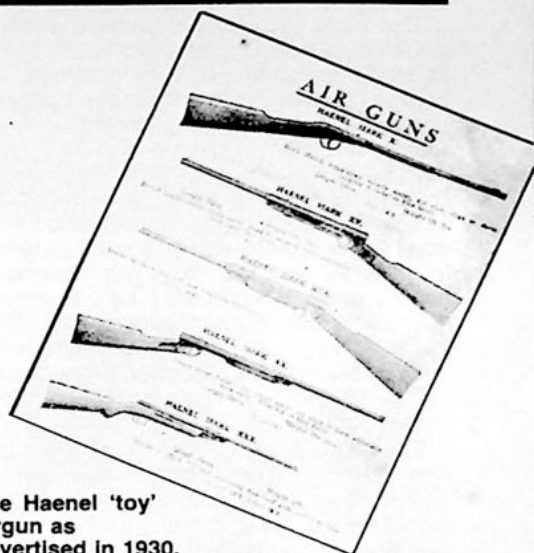
grease' I was able to photograph them.

The gun changed hands for a modest sum, which Peter told me would go to his younger brother, and I then set about finding something more about the airgun I had acquired. My files told me nothing, despite the earlier work I had done on Millard Bros. But then a phone call to Milbro Caledonian, the company which now makes airgun pellets, brought me the information from a former official of Millard Bros that the Milbro Scout had been sold by Millard prior to 1947.

I don't know who made the gun, but I do know that it was made and sold before the transfer of machinery from Mayer & Grammelspacher factory at Rastatt, Germany to the new factory built after the last War at Carfin, near Motherwell, Scotland.

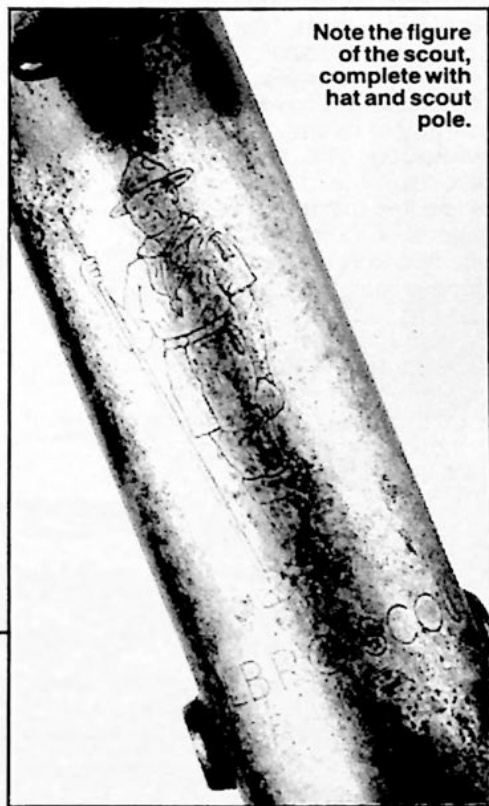
If we go back to the 1935 Milbro catalogue you can see that the Diana No. 1 (Improved) cost 5/9d (29p). But on page 26 an apparently identical airgun — the Milbro No.1M — is offered at the even lower price of 4/6d (22½p), with Milbro on the side of the frame instead of Diana. I have yet to see one of these pre-War Milbro airguns, so I do not know what 'device', if any, is used on the top of the barrel.

At this stage you can see that there is more to what has been described as a 'tin-plate toy gun' than meets the eye. We have now encountered three variants — the Diana No.1 made in Germany and sold by

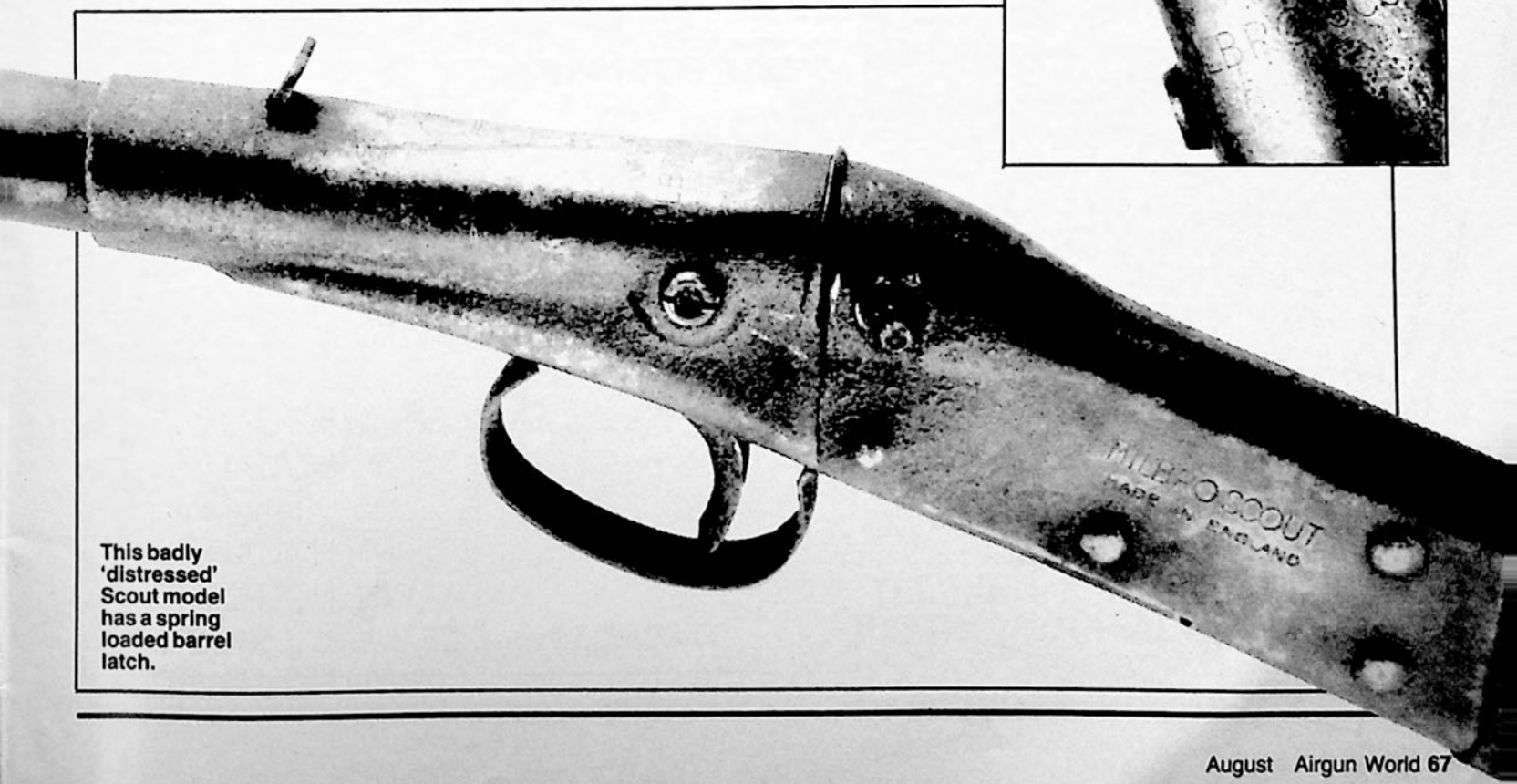


The Haenel 'toy' airgun as advertised in 1930.

continued on page 68



Note the figure of the scout, complete with hat and scout pole.



This badly 'distressed' Scout model has a spring loaded barrel latch.

Millard Bros, the Milbro No.1 sold at a lower price, maker unknown, and our coal shed Milbro Scout, possibly made in England, maker unknown. The latter airgun is post-War, the other two are pre-War.

The most widely encountered of these appears to be the Diana No.1, but I don't know the exact date of its introduction. The design is based on the American Daisy BB guns and the rather complicated history of the development of these 'toy' guns is given in detail in *The American BB Gun* by Arni T. Dunathan. Patents were taken out in the 1890s by Hamilton, Markham and others. I don't know if these designs were patented in Europe, but the 'toy' gun seems to have been neglected by European manufacturers until after World War 1 when the ease of manufacture by sheet metal forming techniques permitted production in the difficult period of post-War reconstruction.

The basic design of the breakdown gun with the detachable barrel was not as important as the techniques developed for manufacture. In Germany, where such techniques had been perfected for the production of tin-plate toys, the manufacture of airguns presented no problems. Whether the designs were taken from American sources with approval and payment of royalties is not known, but none of the airguns I have examined of this type has patent dates.

After the M & G Diana No. 1 the firm produced the Junior Diana, where the indent for the barrel lock was elongated instead of round. Production commenced after World War 1 and continued until 1945. As mentioned before, the machinery was seized and production transferred to Scotland, where manufacture was undertaken by Millard Bros in a new factory established in a developed area. M & G were allowed to recommence the manufacture of airguns after the War on new machinery, which ultimately gave

them an advantage since Millard were manufacturing on out of date pre-War machinery.

We now have two manufacturers and in 1930 another German airgun maker offered the same type of breakdown barrel airgun as the Diana No. 1. This was the firm of C. G. Haenel of Suhl, who were founded as gunmakers in 1840. Manufacture of airguns commenced in 1925 and their agents in Britain, the Modern Arms Company of London, were offering the Mark X in case lots of 125 at 2/11½d (14½p) each in 1930. The Haenel Mark X had knurling under the barrel to simulate a fore-end, but with this exception it was identical to the Diana No. 1.

After 1945 the Haenel factory was in the Eastern zone of Germany, and it became Ernst-Thalman-Werke, VEB — Volkseigener Betrieb-People's Enterprise. Whether the Mark X was manufactured in the post-War period is uncertain.

The catalogues which I have — issued by the Aussenhandels-gesellschaft, the export trade company in Suhl — did not illustrate the 'tin plate' gun although, as we know, Haenel did have the capability to manufacture before the War. The tooling etc could have been destroyed or removed either to the USSR or one of the eastern block countries in much the same way as happened to the machines at M & G in Rastatt but, as we know, they came west instead of east! Efforts to obtain information as to what happened have, so far, been non-productive.

One of the problems of research into 'tin-plate' airguns is that they are rarely mentioned in the sporting press of the period. You have to search through magazines for the younger reader, such as *Boys Realm*, *The Union Jack Library* and *Boy's Own Paper* before advertisements for these airguns can be found.

Other similar airguns were marketed under the name Hot Shot and Hector.

Webster's Southern Armoury advertised the Diana as 'the famous Dare-Devil Diana airgun' and claimed that it could only be obtained from Webster! Webster's price in 1926 was 4/11d (24½p). In none of my Bell's of Glasgow catalogues do we find the Diana No. 1 or anything similar, although this 'vendor' was almost unique in his sales techniques, and he did cater for the lower priced end of the market.

The questions that remain unanswered are: 1. Was the Diana-type airgun ever manufactured in the UK by any other firm besides Millard Bros. and if so, who was it? 2. Were there any other manufacturers of this particular type of 'tin-plate' gun, besides M & G, Haenel and Millard? 3. What other trade names are known besides Hot Shot, Hector and, of course, Milbro Scout? 4. What other trade marks are known besides Diana, Scout and the Hot Shot target and rifle?

It should be possible to put together a reasonable representative collection of these 'tin-plate' guns for a moderate expenditure of money. Although they cannot compete with the more exotic and expensive air rifles they do, nevertheless, form an important part of the history of airguns. In my opinion, just because they were originally quite inexpensive is no reason why they should be ignored, and their long, complicated and quite interesting history unrecorded.

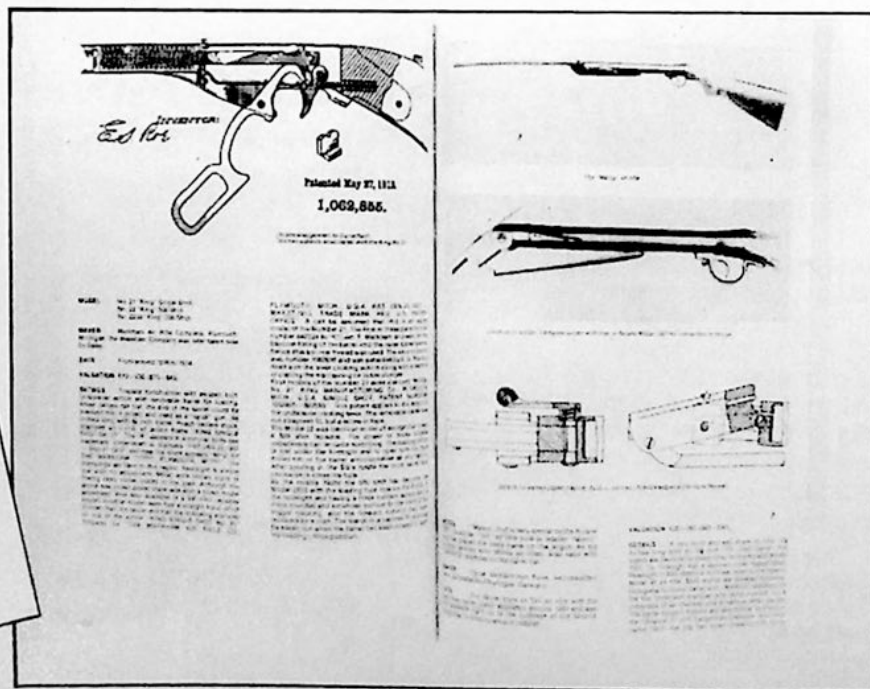
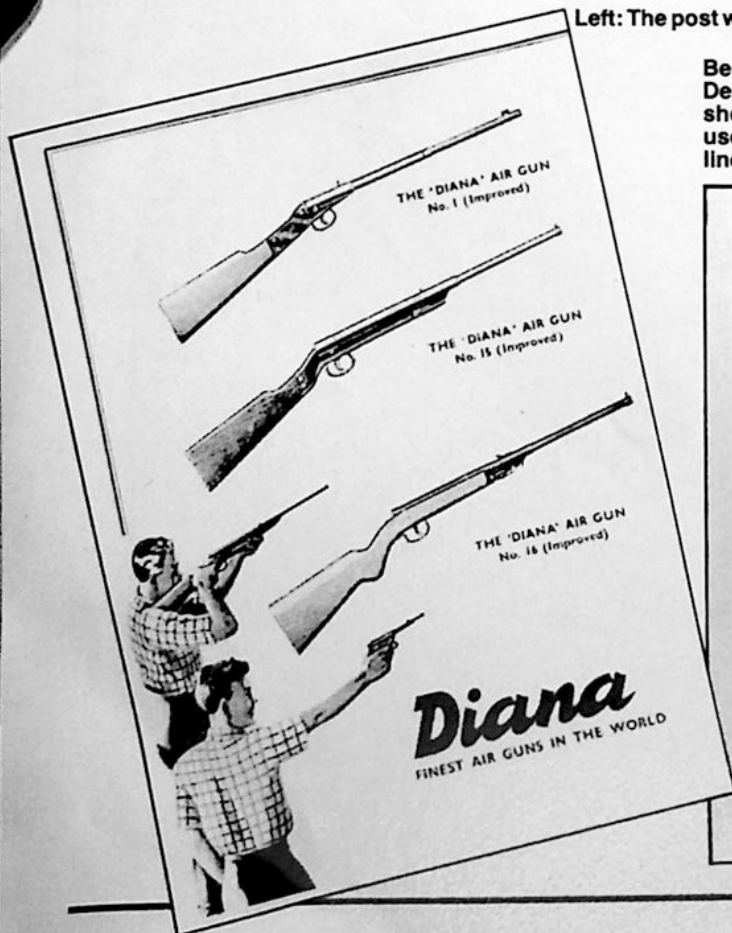
What must have become apparent by now is the importance of what we can call the literature — mention in obscure magazines, advertisements, old catalogues and, of course, books on airguns.

Until fairly recently the available literature could not be considered extensive. Much that is of value is in magazines which were published some time ago and this source may be inaccessible to the newcomer.

A new book has just been published which will do much to ease the problem — the 3rd Edition of Dennis E. Hiller's book, *The Collector's Guide to Air Rifles*. Even if you have the 1st or 2nd editions you must get a copy of the 3rd. This has grown considerably in size, from the 8½ in x 6 in size of the 2nd edition with 170 pages, to

Left: The post war Diana catalogue.

Below: Two pages from Dennis Hiller's new book showing the extensive use of photographs and line drawings.



Luftgewehre

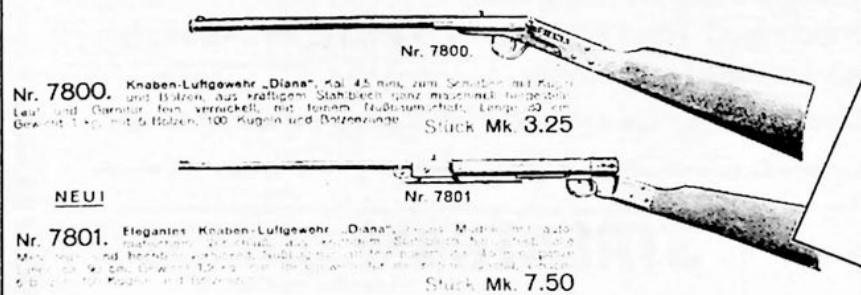
für Schießbuden, Restaurants, Klubs usw. zum Schießen mit Bolzen und Kugeln.
Beste Übungs- und Unterhaltungs-Waffen für Alt und Jung.

Neueste Modelle Luftgewehre sind von zweifelslosigen Konstruktionen aus hochwertigem Metall gefertigt und sind in jeder Hinsicht als Ersatz für Feuerwaffen zu verwenden. Da nun vielfach über Luftgewehre sehr falsche Vorstellungen bestehen, ist es zu empfehlen, sich von einem Fachmann über die Eigenschaften dieser Waffen zu informieren, da solche mit Feuerwaffen in keiner Weise zu vergleichen sind. Die Luftgewehre werden durch den Luftdruck, welcher im Luftzylinder erzeugt wird, aus dem Luft gespeichert und aus dem durch die Zündung, welche man an eine Luftfessel drücken kann, befreit und, und durch die Wirkung einer Federkraft, die Luftgewehr nicht zu erreichen ist. Luftgewehre sind in erster Linie Übungs- und Unterhaltungs-Waffen und können sicher verwendet werden, wo die Benutzung einer Feuerwaffe entweder ganz ausgeschlossen ist oder durch rechtliche Bestimmungen eingeschränkt ist. Meine sämtlichen Luftgewehre besitzen die Tragfähigkeit, die eine gute Übungs- und Unterhaltungs-Waffe sein sollte. Ich selbst schenke auch als Vegetarier zur Stärkung der Gesundheit der Luftgewehre, die eine gute Übungs- und Unterhaltungs-Waffe sein sollte.

Nur prima Qualität!

Knaben-Luftgewehre.

Tadellos



Nr. 7800. Knaben-Luftgewehr „Diana“, mit 45 mm, zum Schießen mit Kugeln und Bolzen aus kräftigem Stahlblech ganz modernisiert, eingebauter Lauf und Gabelschütz verstellbar, mit feinem Nadelverschluss, Länge 60 cm, Gewicht 1 kg, mit 5 Bolzen, 100 Kugeln und Bolzenringe. Stück Mk. 3.25

NEU!

Nr. 7801

Nr. 7801. Elegantes Knaben-Luftgewehr „Diana“, ohne Modifikation, mit auto- matischem Verschluss, das gesamte Stahlblech aus hochwertigem Metall, mit feinem Nadelverschluss, eingebauter Lauf und Gabelschütz verstellbar, mit feinem Nadelverschluss, Länge 60 cm, Gewicht 1 kg, mit 5 Bolzen, 100 Kugeln und Bolzenringe. Stück Mk. 7.50

The German made Diana No. 1 as advertised in the Stukenbrok catalogue.

the 8 1/2 in x 12 in of the 3rd with 276 pages.

Most people, with very few exceptions, want to know what an airgun is worth. Once again Dennis has included a guide to the value of each airgun described and these values have been updated from the earlier editions. Short, but useful sections on oilcans, pellets and targets have been included and, as in the earlier editions, the format includes model, maker, date, valuation, details and serial numbers. Each model has a photograph and, where possible, a line drawing as well.

How much does the book cost? The

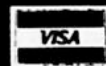
price, post paid in the UK, is £12.50 and overseas is £13 by surface mail and £17 by air mail. Each purchaser automatically receives a copy of a 50 page spares catalogue and for an additional £2 you can obtain a mail order list service which updates the catalogue with ten emendations. Dennis's new address is Hiller Airguns, 92 Chorley Old Road, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancs, PR6 7LD. The book is one I can warmly recommend to collectors and to those with an interest in the history of airguns.

Acknowledgements: I have to thank Mr Thurber for his most valuable assistance with early magazines, Roy Valentine who helped me in my early days and Colin Fisher of Milbro Caledonian Pellet Co Ltd. I must also thank Peter Sermanni who inspired this article! Literature consulted included, The Airgun Book, 3rd Edition by John Walter and the Collector's Guide to Air Rifles, 3rd Edition, by Dennis E. Hiller.

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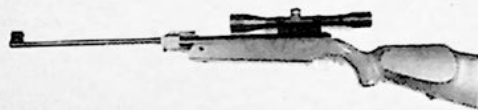


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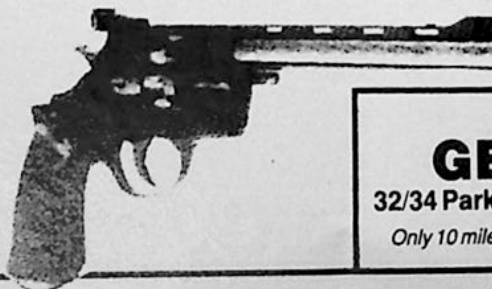
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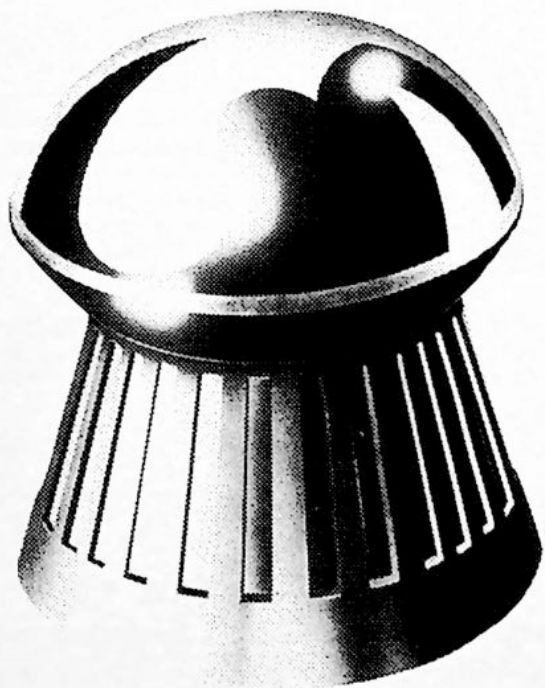
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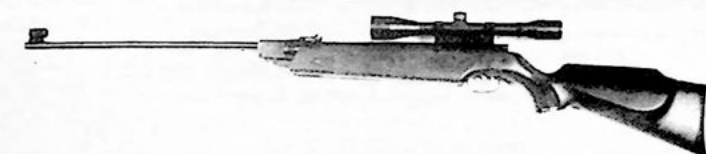
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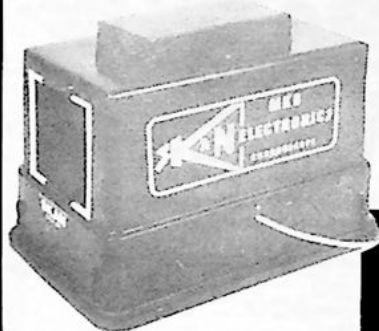
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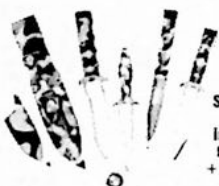
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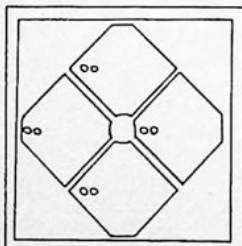
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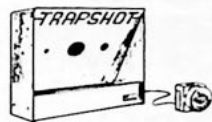
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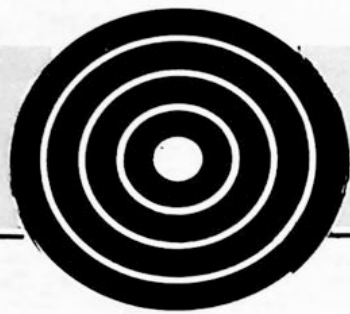
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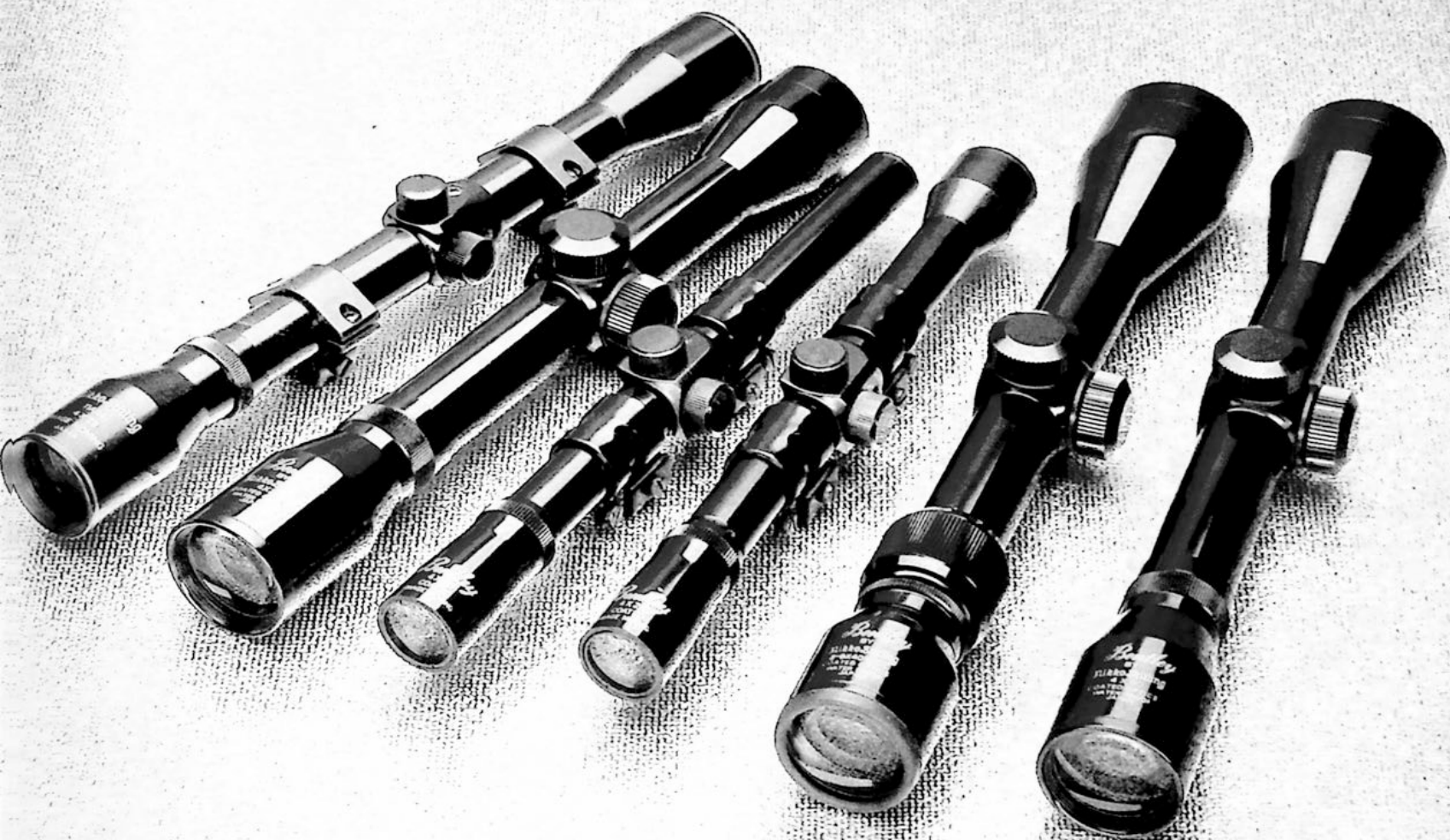
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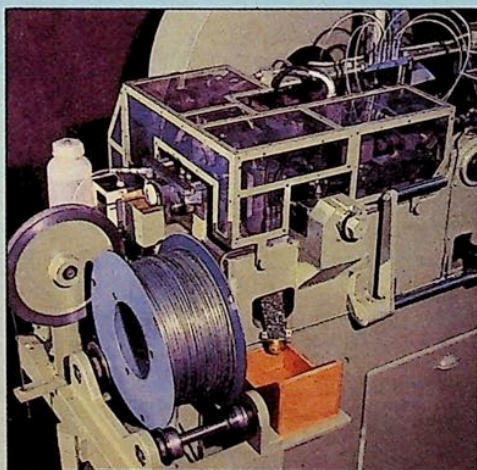
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